BUSINESS / B1
San Miguel takes over Caticlan airport project

BUSINESS / B5
Manila Water eyes 6 projects in India

ACROSS / A15
Caves of mummies in Benguet declared off-limits to visitors

WORLD / A24
Poland struggles to come to terms with death crash

Smartmatic: Don't expect total efficiency

By Lolo B. Salaverria

IF A MACHINE COMES OUT, IT DOESN'T mean there's a glitch.

Duh!

Not all of the counting machines will work perfectly on Election Day, but voters need not worry because officials are prepared to handle the hiccups, according to Smartmatic-TIM Corp. Asia Pacific president Cesar Flores.

At a news conference yesterday, Flores angrily denounced newspaper headlines

SMARTMATIC, A11

Noy to Manny: Let's take lie test instead

By Gil Cabacungan, Michael Lim Ubac and Maricel R. Cruz

WHY NOT A TEST ON who is lying between us?

That was the challenge Liberal Party

NOY TO, A11

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Tuesday, April 13, 2010 ★★ 5 sections / Vol. 25 / No. 124 P18

Lakas: Nograles big loss

Gonzales leaves Lakas, joins LP

By Gil Cabacungan
in Manila
and Charlene Cayabyab
Inquirer Central Luzon

HE DID NOT HAVE TO LEAVE the ruling Lakas-Kampi-CMD, his party of 15 years, because he is running unopposed in the congressional district of Mandaluyong City.

But Deputy Majority Leader Neptali Gonzales II still decided to support Liberal Party standard-bearer Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III.

Gonzales, a staunch ally of President Macapagal-Arroyo in the House of Representatives, said he left Lakas-Kampi-CMD not because of alleged faculting problems founding the ruling party.

"I did it because this is something that I believe in," the congressman said in an interview with reporters.

Gonzales said his entry into the Liberal Party was a sort of homecoming because his father,

GONZALES, A6

Speaker cites 'total disarray' in ruling coalition

COURTESY CALL Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile pays his respects to Tarlac Bishop Florentino P. Cinense, while former President Joseph "Erap" Estrada looks on during Monday's courtesy call on the Catholic prelate in Tarlac. (EDMUNDO FERNANDEZ)

By Gil Cabacungan

HE NEVER EVEN SAID "HI" or "hello."

Speaker Prospero C. Nograles is "seriously considering" dumping the ruling Lakas-Kampi-CMD and its standard-bearer Gilbert "Gibo" Teodoro and joining Nacionalista Party candidate Rep. Manuel "Manny" Villar Jr.

Nograles griped about a Teodoro snub during a recent visit to Davao City, where the Speaker is now running for mayor, and the absence of civility that he said was causing a "total disarray" in the administration coalition barely a month before the May 10 elections.

President Macapagal-Arroyo's political adviser, Prospero Pichay, said the departure of Nograles would be a "serious blow," but added that "the loss of one man will not lead to the party's disintegration."

"It won't affect my campaign because he had never aggressively supported me," said Teodoro, a former defense secretary who is lagging in poll surveys behind Rep. Benigno Aquino III, Villar and former President Joseph Estrada.

"Wala naman (Nothing)," Villar said on Sunday night when asked in Koronadal, South Cotabato, where he was campaigning, if there were negotiations with Nograles. "I can say that many of the local leaders choose a new leader when the term of a president is about to end."

"Normally that would be a very serious blow to the administration party," Aquino said. "I understand he is not being consigned at least publicly for

LAKAS, A2

SWS POLL

GMA satisfaction rating now 'very bad'

PUBLIC DISSATISFACTION with President Macapagal-Arroyo's performance fell to a record low from "bad" to "very bad" in practically all areas and socioeconomic classes, a Social Weather Stations (SWS) survey conducted from March 19 to 22 showed.

Sixteen percent of Filipinos were satisfied, while 69 percent were dissatisfied with Ms Arroyo's performance, resulting in a net satisfaction rating (satisfied minus dissatisfied) of negative 53. SWS said in a statement yesterday.

Ms Arroyo's net satisfaction rating fell by 15 points from negative 38 (23 percent satisfied and 61 percent dissatisfied) in December 2009, surpassing her previous record low rating of negative 50 posted in July 2008.

Malacañang blamed the "toxic" election campaign for the unprecedented negative ratings of Ms Arroyo.

"We are not surprised with the continued drop of her ratings because what we have now is toxic campaigning and the toxic campaigners always target President Arroyo," said deputy presidential

GMA, A8

Thai protesters hold parade of coffins

BLOOD ON THE STREETS A funeral portrait of an anti-government protester who was killed during clashes with Thai soldiers on Saturday is displayed during Monday's procession in Bangkok. AP

BANGKOK—RED-SHIRTED protesters paraded coffins through Thailand's capital on Monday in a renewed attempt to pressure the government to step down after street fighting left 21 people dead, pushing this Southeast Asian nation closer to political anarchy.

Neither side appeared willing to end the stalemate, which descended this weekend into the worst political violence Thailand has seen in two decades.

On Monday, Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva blamed the bloodshed on a small group of troublemakers whom he called terrorists, rather than on the entire protest movement. Even so, he continued to refuse to dissolve his government.

The red-shirted protesters and security forces on Saturday clashed on the streets of Bangkok for several hours, until soldiers and police backed down, retreating on

THAI, A4

Ateneo rejects MVP offer to quit, accepts apology

By Dodee L. Lucas

THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF Ateneo de Manila University has rejected the resignation of its chair, Manuel V. Pangilinan, saying the businessman was not fully aware that portions of his graduation speeches he delivered recently were lifted from other speeches.

In a press briefing, Ateneo president Fr. Bienvenido Nebres said the board held a special meeting on Sunday and that all its 14 members—excluding Pangilinan—agreed that the school's sports patron and largest donor should stay on.

"The board accepts Mr. Pangilinan's apology as the appropriate response to this unfortunate incident," Nebres said in a prepared statement. "However, the unanimous decision

ATENEO, A17

Health care beyond reach of poor, say critics

By Kirsten Bernabe
Contributor

(11th of a series)

FOR ANY FILIPINO FAMILY, ESpecially among the poor, an illness striking any of its members is viewed as a catastrophe.

Six of 10 Filipinos who succumb to sickness die without ever seeing a doctor, according to the University of the Philippines' National Health Institute.

Health care is one of the most important issues that should be on the agenda of whoever gets elected president in the May election, according to a group of former senior government officials who have drawn up a list of urgent concerns for the next administration to address in its first year.

Unlike in the United States, where health care occupied center stage in the past presidential election and continues to be a major program of the Obama ad-

THINK ISSUES
i-TEAM Report
Fernando del Mundo
Chief

HEALTH, B1

WEATHER FORECAST

TODAY: Mostly cloudy with rain showers and thunderstorms, while the rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rain over the eastern sections.

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Northern Luzon	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Cubao	Partly Cloudy
Iloilo	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Partly Cloudy
Metro Cebu	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Mostly Cloudy
Pagadian	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Mostly Cloudy
Legaspi	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Mostly Cloudy

Second
FRONTPAGE

6/49 (Sunday)
17 27 6 8 15 10

6/42 (Tuesday)
2 0 3 5 0 9

PCSO 9-DIGIT
2 9 9 2 2 0 3

MEGALOTTO 6/45
13 26 30 36 39 42
P8,473,831.20

Comelec approves NP-NPC merger

2 commissioners dissent; issue of dominant minority party hangs

By Lolo B. Salaverria

THE COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS (COMELEC) YESTERDAY handed down its decision approving the union of the Nacionalista Party (NP) and the Nationalist People's Coalition (NPC), saying that the merger was allowed because no member of either party had formally objected to it.

The Comelec also said that the Liberal Party, which had opposed the coalition, "had no business intervening in internal political acts and decisions on the NPC leadership."

The LP had contended that the NP-NPC merger was "bogus" and was only forged to give the coalition the biggest number of incumbent officials, one of the factors considered in accrediting a party as the dominant minority.

The approval of the NP-NPC coalition could give the group the upper hand in the fight to be recognized as the dominant minority party, which would entitle it to a copy of election criteria from the counting coalitions.

But the Comelec was apparently divided over the issue, with two members of the seven-member en banc—Chair Jose Melo and Commissioner Rene Sarmiento—saying that "the alleged coalition of the NP and NPC is a sham coalition, a highly dubious scheme deliberately resorted to by its proponents to bag the status and reap the benefits of being the dominant minority party."

Dissenting opinion

Sarmiento, in his dissenting opinion which was concurred in by Melo, also said that even if the coalition was valid, the NP-NPC could not be recognized as the dominant minority party.

He said the accredited coalition did not yet exist when the NP and NPC filed the petition to be recognized as the dominant minority party.

Comelec rules state that only duly registered political parties may seek accreditation as the dominant minority, he noted.

"While it is true that the NP and NPC were both duly accredited political parties, their recognition as such cannot in any way be used to benefit the NP-NPC coalition for the reasons that the latter is a completely distinct and separate entity from the NP and NPC," Sarmiento said.

Sarmiento also said that the NP and NPC constitutions and by-laws require their national conventions to approve the move to enter into a coalition with another party.

In the instant petition, the records are, to the point of separation, bereft of any proof that said duly passed that the national conventions of both the NP and NPC authorized the officers to form a coalition," Sarmiento said.

He added that the NP and NPC's joint resolution on their partnership was thus null and void, and "there is no valid coalition between the two political parties."

Running for same posts

He also pointed out that members of the NP and NPC were running against each other for the same positions.

"This is absurd if there was indeed an agreement to form a coalition because a coalition is an alliance among individuals or groups, existing which they cooperate in joint action, such as their wars with internes, joining together for a common cause. How can there be an alliance for a common cause if members of the NP and NPC are competing against each other?" he said.

In its main ruling, the Comelec approved the coalition of the NP and NPC because if there had been any violations of the rules of the two parties, it was up to their members to question the union.

"To date, no representative from either the NP or NPC have filed a factual opposition...This only means that the members of the NP and NPC have expressed their consent to the coalition agreed to by their respective leaders," it said.

No rebid for indelible ink—Comelec

By Lolo B. Salaverria

THE COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS (Comelec) backtracked on its plan to rebid the contract for the purchase of indelible ink for the May 10 elections, saying that the lone qualified bidder did not fail the test after all.

But the Comelec will hold another bidding for the purchase of BLIDE-AE-1 solvent anyway, after the three bidders, which included the sole recommended OTC Paper Supply failed to submit the necessary requirements, thus leading to a failed bidding.

Comelec spokesperson James Jimenez yesterday said that the testing of the indelible ink from the lone qualified supplier, Trans Resources Corp., did not fail.

"We've had the testing already and as we said earlier, the failure was very very minor and in fact, I was told this morning it wasn't actually a failure," Jimenez said.

Jimenez said it was initially thought to be a failure because the ink did not seem to adhere when tested on one of four solvents. But when the bottle of ink was shaken, it did adhere and when passed the test.

"It looks like there's no need to actually rebid it, not to mention the fact that, you know, as far as that's concerned, there's really not enough time left for that," he told reporters.

Earlier, he said the Comelec was likely to rebid the indelible ink contract after the first bidding failed, the had said that it would be unfair to other bidders if the supplier of the ink was allowed to submit its product for retesting.

Arsenio Sorreno, a member of the Comelec's citizens' arm Parish National Council for Responsible Voting, had called for a rebidding of the indelible ink contract after witnessing the first failed bidding, where he saw that the ink could be removed by using bleach.

Sarmiento had said that a rebidding should be done instead of a retesting of the indelible ink, as that was what was required under the law.

On the UV lamp contract, Jimenez said a rebidding was called for because the bidders had failed to submit the required shipping schedules.

"We have a pass/fail criteria. Apparently they failed that. So we will have to conduct a rebidding, a very very, very quick rebidding," he said.

One of the bidders for the project was OTC Paper Supply, which was in the control of the breakaway over the Comelec's awarded purchase of 1.8-million bullet scanner ballots worth P380 each, a deal worth nearly P700 million.

Gordon to media: Sponsor debates

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

[DIG] LTTS...."WE SHOULD have more debates."

Bagong Lipunan standard-bearer Sen. Richard Gordon yesterday said that with the campaign period entering the homestretch, media organizations should step up organizing more debates, particularly among presidential candidates.

"The media is losing by default and our people are the biggest losers," said Gordon.

He network ABS-CBN was supposed to set a presidential debate for two weeks ago but this was scrapped two days before air time after some candidates backed out.

Gordon, who had confirmed his attendance at the debate, said up on learning of the cancellation: "These tactics refuse to join debates show that they cannot stand the pressure of facing the people."

Yesterday he told reporters that substitutes who declined invitations to debate were "idiots."

It is the right of the voters to question candidates begging for their votes, he said.

"Can't we ask Noynoy (Aquino) what his track record is? Can't we ask (Manny) Villar about the C.5 controversy?"

"Candidates should demonstrate not only their ability to spend wars, or or their ability to use their family (in campaigns) but also their capability (to lead)," he added.

He said the scandals involving Villar and Aquino would continue to haunt them even if one of them becomes president.

"How would they concentrate on working if there are issues they could not answer (in debates)?" he said.

He said Aquino should explain why his family owned more than 4,500 hectares of land when ordinary Filipino families could not afford 10 square meters.

He said Villar should also explain the big loans his companies received from the Government Service Insurance System for his subdivisions that got the CREATE financial trouble.

He asked: "Who should you entrust (with) the jobs for our people? Who has the credibility to get business for this country - Noynoy, Villar or Gordon?"

BREAKING NEWS
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"When I had ReFirme for the first time, they did it on one side of my face first. I was instantly shocked at the dramatic difference between the "treated half" of my face. When they showed me the "treated part," I was convinced! My laugh lines - gone! And my eyes perked up a bit! It felt very natural. So I said, "Go on, continue on the other half!" A few days after, my entire face improved even more because the maximum effects could be seen after two weeks. I'm so glad I got my confidence back!"
- April Sedita, 41
"I usually get a ReFirme treatment after a facial. And I can't tell a difference, it makes me look 5 years younger! Every single time I've had it done, people take notice of my skin. The results are so amazing!"
- Lynne Alcaraz, 46
"I love ReFirme! It's painless and yet so effective. You see immediate results, and it lasts! And unlike other procedures, with it completely gone, I actually see clearly get rid of it for good. I made it a point to schedule my ReFirme treatments on special occasions like prom, proms, graduations and awards nights."
- Cherie Gil, 46
"I was skeptic when ReFirme when I first heard of it. I thought it would be painful. But it wasn't at all! No downtime, no pain, and I relish in what I prefer. I love it because it gave me, how a 28, even making my cheekbones more prominent! It's the best for a man's confidence! I'm so amazed that my cheeks are less visible now!"
- Angel Aquit, 39
"I didn't expect to see immediate results from ReFirme, but I did! When they did it on one half of my face, I could see quite a significant difference. My skin seemed lifted and firmer, as my cheeks looked fuller. I also noticed that my complexion looked healthier even when I didn't have any make-up on! I love this treatment!"
- Claudine Pelin Wyatt, 36
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Probe Villar fund source, Comelec asked

By Leila B. Salaverria

PDTY DOES NACIONALISTA PARTY (NP) standard-bearer Sen. Manny Villar seem to have such deep pockets for his campaign?

A lawyer yesterday asked the Commission on Elections (Comelec) to investigate the source of the funds Villar has been spending on his entire pre-campaign for the presidency and to disqualify him if it is found that the funds had come from illegal sources.

In his complaint, lawyer Ernesto Francisco said Villar had just over P16 million in his bank accounts as of December 2008, which amount could not be burdensome his campaign which he estimates to have cost over P1 billion so far.

Even if Villar said his assets, the amount would not be enough as well, Francisco said. He pointed out that Villar had always claimed he was spending his own money on his campaign.

Omnibus Election Code

He asked the poll body to investigate if Villar's funds had come from the initial public offering (IPO) of his real estate firm Vista Land and Lifescapes Inc. and from other real estate corporations of which he is a stockholder.

He noted that the IPO took place around the time that Villar announced he was running for president.

He said the law prohibits Villar's corporation from contributing to his or to anyone's campaign.

The Omnibus Election Code states that expenditures that have been granted franchises, incentives and exemptions by the government are limited from directly or indirectly giving contributions to partisan political activities.

Francisco said the real estate firms of which Villar is a stockholder enjoy incentives from the government. He said the real estate business was highly regulated, so Villar had to seek its projects, and those engaged in it received exemptions, privileges and concessions from the government.

As well, domestic corporations that develop and sell subdivided housing are exempt from paying related income taxes.

Francisco said that even if Villar were a stockholder of the real estate firms, he could not claim that its money belonged to him and that he could use it for his campaign.

Funds not his

"In this regard, it is not relevant or material if respondent Sen. Manuel B. Villar Jr. is the major or principal stockholder of the aforementioned land corporations because, as earlier mentioned, the funds and assets of the said corporations do not belong to him but, rather, those are separate funds and assets belonging to the said corporations. Accordingly the funds and assets of the said corporations cannot be used in the presidential campaign of respondent," he said.

Francisco said he filed the complaint of his own accord and not on behalf of any politician.

Francisco is a lawyer of Sen. Jamby Madrigal, a presidential candidate and opponent Villar once.

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Health care beyond reach of poor, say critics

From page A1

administration, very little attention is focused on the current debates on this major problem that impacts heavily on improving education and raising poverty incidence in the country.

Ailing parents can't support their families. Sickly and malnourished children can't attend schools, setting back their education, the main vehicle for social mobility especially among the poor who have no access to wealth or capital.

Even among those with a regular income, like Jeremy Macalalag, 39, surviving a major ailment is nothing short of a miracle.

Macalalag was diagnosed with severe kidney problem requiring dialysis, an expensive treatment that cost P5,500 a session. He had to undergo this process at least six times before he had a P1.2 million transplant operation, doctors said.

"I didn't know from which pocket and from what kind of hand I would get the money to save my husband's life," says Macalalag's wife, Jeanne, 38, an ultrasound technician in a hospital who earned P30,000 a month on which her family of four depended to survive.

With her social network, however, she secured help from humanitarian organizations, such as the Lifeline Foundation of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office, to defray the cost of the transplant.

Six many in this nation of 90 million are that fortunate, especially among the more than 17 million who survive on a dollar a day, the poverty threshold defined by the World Bank.

Infant mortality rates

The poorest Filipinos have an infant mortality rate of 41 per 1,000 births, compared with 19 per 1,000 in families with wealth, according to a concept paper presented at a UP forum on universal health care last year.

"The same can be observed in maternal mortality rates. The lowest income groups are also at 3 times greater risk of dying relative to those in the highest income groups," it said.

Urban areas, such as Ilo-Ilo and Capital Region, have the highest number of health facilities, while the poorer regions such as the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao have predominantly private facilities—far from the reach of the poor.

CHARITY CASE A patient rests on a hospital bed before her operation during "Operation Restore Hope" at Dinahale Perpetual Memorial Medical Center in Caloocan City on Monday. Operation Restore Hope, a group of medical volunteers from Germany, New Zealand and Australia, performs free surgery for about 30 Filipinos who forgot children afflicted with cleft lips, cleft palates and other facial deformities over a period of five days. REUTERS

"Despite 50 percent coverage of PhilHealth insurance, 10 percent of health spending is still out-of-pocket. Due to increasing cost of services and the lack of appropriate social protection, 2.5 mm more tends to be viewed as a catastrophic event, especially for the poorest Filipino families," the paper says.

Universal health care

Dr. Ramon Bacungan of the UP National Health Institute says the country needs a universal health care system where "every Filipino has access to needed health care, with minimal or no copayments."

He stresses that this isn't about charity. "It is repaid by taxes and social protection."

Patricia Ramores that health care financing has almost always been constrained.

"Government's budget for health care only amounts to less than 3 percent of the country's GDP (gross domestic product). This is 2 percent lower than the standard health care allocation, 5 percent, recommended by the World Health Organization," Ramores says.

"In a nutshell, we spend P300 billion for health care but 60 percent of this are out-of-the-pocket expenditures."

Philippine Health Insurance Corp. (PhilHealth) is a state agency attached to the Department of Health, which strives to deliver universal health care to its clients.

The agency "ensures accountable, affordable and progressive social health insurance, which endeavors to influence the delivery of accessible quality health care for all Filipinos."

Public hospitals

Workers pay P100 to P700 a month for PhilHealth, but 58 percent of the municipality premiums is covered by their employers.

Critics say that PhilHealth is one of the letters one waste corporations, accumulating assets of up to P76 billion.

But they say that little of PhilHealth's assets are being used to finance the improvement of provincial hospitals so that they can be accredited into the system and thereby ease the shortage of medical services in the rural areas.

Little tertiary health care—services provided in major ailments by such hospitals as Makati Medical Center and Medical City—is available in the provinces.

Valid concern

Health Secretary Esperanza Cabral acknowledges this is a valid concern.

"We need to improve our services so far as accrediting hospitals and clinics so that patients with PhilHealth cards can access them and they can be reimbursed for the services they provide so that they can have money that they can pour into other health services," Cabral says.

"The support value is only about 30 percent. At the moment, we actually say that it is the only amount that we can afford. I have to take a serious look as to whether that is the only thing we can afford, are we putting it in the right places."

Ramos shows dismaying rates of the rural poor who are unable to avail themselves of medical services.

"There's nothing. I can die," says an ailing woman profiled in the documentary. "I am just waiting to die if no one lends help," she says, tears welling in her wrinkled eyes.

Health on P1.18 a day?

How does the average Filipino cope?

"I do everything. I sell perfumes and I work during my days off. We also collect bottles, newspapers, boxes and the like, and sell them," Jeanne Manalalag says.

The Macalalags and other families in comfortable life hits are used to earning earned but almost always. He cannot afford other extra expenses.

Based on the allocation of government's budget, a tax-paying Filipino spends only P1.10 a day for health care compared to P22.75 spent on debt-servicing, authorities say.

Apparently, P1.10 a day isn't giving the Aquino Presidency in this country's too much hope.

While every Filipino is entitled to health care in the Constitution, it is regarded more as a privilege, as poverty incidence widens.

"Health care in the Philippines is costly as it is mostly given for profit. Most Filipinos are poor and health care becomes least in their priorities next to food, shelter and education," says Dr. Gaston Bituin, secretary general of Health Alliance for Democracy.

She says the profit-driven nature of health care is characterized by privatization of services, including those dispensed by government facilities, as well as the western orientation of health education designed for the needs of other countries.

Ill-equipped gov't hospitals

"Government hospitals are ill-equipped. Just a PhilHealth member we'll have intensive care unit (for membership)," Rivera says.

For example, she says, few public hospitals have an ultrasound facility. What's unsafe you have to go to a private hospital to avail yourself of this service and pay for it.

"PhilHealth also has various limitations in its coverage," Rivera says. "But the whole concept of it does not answer the bigger problems. In Government hospitals, Filipinos are timely afford to buy food, how can one pay for the consultation?" she says.

"Government policies on health care promises have made the health care services more and more inaccessible to the people especially the underprivileged. The continued privatization of government hospitals, the low priority in allocating budget for health, and the continuing program of sending our health professionals abroad, instead of contributing to the economy of the health care delivery in the country," she says.

And unfortunately, health professionals who choose to stay in the country and do come to poverty work are being targeted as enemies of the government and are being harassed, like the 43 health workers allegedly illegally arrested and detained in Camp Capinpin. The case has reached the Commission on Human Rights.

Rivera says that the government should promote community health work and ensure that volunteers are safe from harassment.

"The government should work on making health and other social services equitable, those who have less should receive more," says Rivera, one of the few doctors who immerse themselves in depressed communities and serve the poor.

Alternative medicine

Because of the high cost of health care, many Filipinos resort to alternative medicine.

Norberto Corrales, a 32-year-old jobless father, proudly brings his 16-month-old daughter to a manguenosa, a sort of an exorcist, whenever she gets sick.

Dance is a ritual to find supernatural causes of physical illnesses.

The practitioner chants a prayer. A candle is lit and as the medical man drops in a bottle of water, an image is formed, said to be the creature responsible for the ailment. The child then drops the water into a small bowl, voila, the ailment disappears.

Corrales says he had tried to raise P800 for a doctor's consultation fees, but decided he couldn't afford it, much less the prescribed medicines.

"Manguenosa are quick in terms and quick," he says. "We don't have the money for it."

Lila Pangandian, 64, a manguenosa, says that her patients are growing. "Even in the middle of the night, they come to my house," she says.

Faith healing

Pangandian says she learned the ritual from her mother back in her Muslim hometown.

"I don't charge them or ask for anything. I just do prayers," she says.

Pangandian's services are also very much affordable. She accepts any donation the patient hands over.

"I am not totally against health care professionals, but it depends on the method," says Dr. Imelda Perez. "As long as it is sanitary and does not let patients take drugs prior to doctor's prescription."

Perez also says it can get dangerous. "The illness can get worse," she says. "With spiritual healing, I must say that it is important for a person's recovery."

It's all about faith, when all else fails.

Thai protesters hold parade of coffins

From page A1

truce that has held since. But no broader solution is in sight.

The antigovernment protesters are made up of mostly poor rural supporters of former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, whose populist policies eased the plight of many. They have massed in the city over the past month, having themselves in the historic old city area on the capital's main shopping boulevard.

On the other side is the government of Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva, whom the Red Shirts see as a symbol of the ruling elite they say orchestrated the 2006 military coup that removed Thaksin from power amid corruption allegations.

Market plunges

The Thai stock market plunged 3.6 percent on Monday amid fears of renewed unrest in the aftermath of demonstrators came out in a massive motorcade.

Like a gigantic red snake, the line of pickup trucks, motorcycles and other vehicles wound its way through the main roads of Bangkok. They carried several coffins with bodies of those killed in Saturday's violence.

Four soldiers and 17 civilians died, including a Thomson Reuters cameraman. The protesters were conducting symposia on nine bodies.

Both sides have accused each other of firing battlefield weapons during the confrontation.

In a speech broadcast live on Monday, Abhisit praised the protests as "largely peaceful" and said an independent inquiry would be held into the shootings. Those found guilty would be prosecuted, he promised.

"These are the heroes of democracy" a protest leader shouted on Monday from a loudspeaker as mourned atop a truck in the motorcade.

"We want to see charge on Abhisit's face. We want him to take responsibility for this slaughter of innocents," said a woman who identified herself only as Thip.

The procession started in Phan Fa Bridge, near the present base in the historic section of Bangkok. It then drove through the modern commercial heart of the city.

The disruptive protests began a month ago, when the demonstrators began pressing their demand that Abhisit dissolve Parliament and call new elections with renewed force.

Scourge of old guard

The protesters are the Gallocal-educated Abhisit as a symbol...and scourge...of the old guard that has traditionally ruled Thailand.

They use the band of this city in the 2008 protests by the Yellow Shirts, whose demonstrations helped topple the two elected governments—made up of Thaksin allies—that took power following the coup.

In the subsequent vacuum, Parliament voted in Abhisit, and the Red Shirts say it was with the connivance of the military.

The Yellow Shirts took in the streets—laying siege to the seat of government for months and shutting down the capital's airports for a week—claiming corruption in the governments of Thaksin and his allies undermined Thai democracy.

The Red Shirts also say they are fighting for democracy, arguing that the wealthy keep vacating their votes at the polls with coups or trumped-up charges. Only new elections can restore integrity to the process, they say.

Abhisit pressured

Unconfirmed reports in local newspapers said political parties in the coalition government were pressuring Abhisit to compromise with the protesters by dissolving Parliament in their next six months instead of by year's end, as he had earlier proposed.

Abhisit must call elections by the end of 2011.

"The government should be more flexible in their attempts to resolve the situation, it's their duty to seek for a solution that is possible and acceptable for both sides," said Sugunan Ganesalee, a political scientist at Bangkok's Chulalongkorn University.

He predicted more violence in the next two weeks since "the standpoints of both sides is clear...that negotiation and compromise will not happen."

Other observers saw political maneuvering rather than street fighting on the horizon.

"Abhisit standing down would be a problem. It is discredited now, so he must decide how he can do something that is seen as in the national interest. As election is urgent," said Kevin Hewison, who heads the Asian Studies Department at the University of North Carolina. AP

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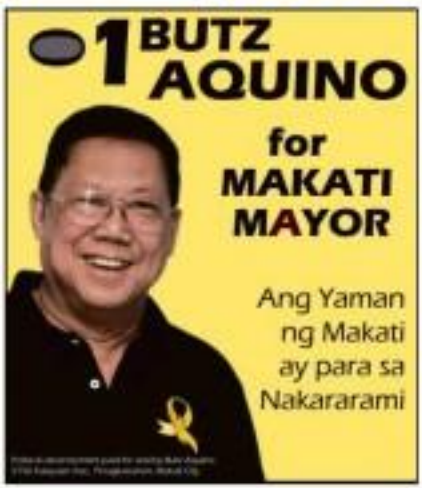
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North Harbor row far from settled

By Jeannette I. Andrade and Paolo G. Montecillo

THE RUN WITH LABOR groups and shipping line/land tot have settled after all. But Philippine Ports Authority (PPA) officials pushed through nonetheless with the formal turnover of the North Harbor to a private consortium yesterday morning.

The new port management, Manila North Harbour Port Inc. (MNHPI), had actually moved into the sprawling port area on Sunday night, after riot police stopped a melee that broke out as Piers 8 and 13 between harbor guards and waterfront workers who were trying to prevent the takeover until after their bank wages and benefits had been settled.

At least five persons were injured when the private turned violent, police said.

The commander of the police station in Mandaluyong, Tomas Rojo Jimenez Bautista Jr., said the dark workers had formed human barricades in front of Piers 8 and 13 at about 3: 30 p.m. and were throwing bottles and burning tires before withdrawing to the MNHPI compound.

Also clouding the turnover, however, was a petition filed by the country's biggest shipping lines last July seeking the Supreme Court to stop the turnover, described as a "sweetheart deal" between the PPA and MNHPI.

'Null and illegal'

The Philippine Liner Shipping Association (PLSA) asked the court to declare the deal "null and illegal," likening North Harbor's privatization to the controversial construction of Terminal 3 of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport, which was later scrapped by the high court.

"The Manila North Harbor Modernization Project (MNHP) would deprive the government of revenues from port operation, increase shipping operation costs and freight and passenger rates, and subsequently push up prices of goods and commodities transported to Manila from other parts of the country," the group said in a statement.

Last November, MNHPI won the 25-year contract in modernize the port after it was declared the only qualified bidder.

PLSA said it found several irregularities in the contract that gave MNHPI the rights to operate North Harbor. It also said the consortium should first construct new facilities to make the port more efficient.

The PLSA earlier opposed the imposition of concession fees, which are to paid MNHPI by third party cargo handlers operating within North Harbor, because this would likely be passed on to consumers in the form of higher cargo and passenger rates.

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Most senior SC justice holding fast

By Dona Z. Pazdiagan

NO, HE HAS NOT CHANGED HIS mind.

The most senior member of the Supreme Court has continued to decline to be nominated for Chief Justice, reiterating his opinion that Executive Secretary Leandro Mendoza is barred by the Constitution from appointing outgoing Chief Justice Reynato Puno's successor when he retires on May 17.

Senior Associate Justice Antonio Carpio's formal refusal to be nominated has left the Judicial and Bar Council (JBC) to choose from five candidates for their short list of three nominees to be submitted to the President.

Carpio's decision was an offshoot of the Supreme Court's 6-1 ruling on March 17 declaring Mr. Aquino to appoint the next Chief Justice as the grounds that the constitutional provision against "midnight appointments" does not apply to the Supreme Court.

By tradition the most senior justice is expected to succeed the retiring Chief Justice.

After Carpio, the next most senior court member is Associate Justice Renato Corona, who is widely perceived as the Mr. Aquino's choice since he had served as his chief of staff before being appointed to the high court.

Carpio reiterated his position in a letter to the JBC on Monday in reference to the JBC's scheduled public interview of all Chief Justice candidates on April 19 and 20 in Baguio City, where the high court is holding its annual summer session.

"I refer to your letter of 7 April 2010 inviting me to be interviewed on 19 April 2010 for nomination to the position of Chief Justice. In reply, I wish to reiterate that I am not interested to be nominated to the said position at this time," Carpio wrote.

Carpio had earlier consented to be considered for nomination as Chief Justice, but on the condition that his "nomination would be submitted to the next president in view of the ban under Section 15, Article VII, of the Constitution."

Aside from Carpio and Corona, the other candidates for Chief Justice are Associate Justices Conchita Carpio-Morales, who had also made the same condition as Carpio; Teresita Leonardo de Castro and Arturo Brion, and Acting Sandiganbayan Presiding Justice Edilberto Sandoval.

DAR chief calls shots on CARP–SC

By Dona Pazdiagan

AMID THE HARVEST CONversion of agricultural lands for residential and commercial uses, the Supreme Court has officially put the "exclusive" authority of the secretary of agrarian reform to determine which landholdings may be distributed to tenant-farmers under the agrarian reform program.

The Supreme Court declared that the head of the Department of Agrarian Reform had the "exclusive jurisdiction to classify and identify landholdings" to be covered by the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP).

The high court made the ruling in the case brought up by Manglal. Poultry and Development Corp. (MDC) which questioned then Agrarian Secretary Ernesto Garilao's decision in 1997 denying its application to exempt its 17-hectare property in Batangas City from agrarian reform.

Garilao had ordered the property placed under CARP because as of 1993, the land was categorized as "agricultural, (but) reserved for residential."

Garilao decided that the land was only classified as "residential-1" based on a resolution passed by the Sangguniang Calo Council on Dec. 12, 1994. He said the phrase "reserved for residential" means that the property was still classified as "agricultural" at the time CARP was implemented in 1988 and, therefore, was covered by CARP.

Garilao's order was affirmed by the Office of the President in 2003 and by the Court of Appeals in 2007.

The MDC appealed the case to the SC, arguing the power to classify lands was "essentially a legislative function that ordinarily lies with the legislative authorities."

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'Internet rape victims not Pinays'

By Cynthia D. Balana

THE PHILIPPINE EMBASSY IN ABU DHABI said it had investigated a story circulating on the Internet about two Filipina women allegedly raped and stabbed behind a mall there but found no evidence that the story was true.

The embassy sent a report to the Department of Foreign Affairs on Monday, saying it had concluded that the story was a hoax.

The story that passed from e-mail to e-mail, some accompanied by agonizing video showing an unidentified woman with severe cuts all over her face and body, said one of the two victims of a gang rape behind Bawadi City's Marina Mall last died on the spot, with the other dying in a hospital days later.

Philippine Ambassador to the United Arab Emirates Grace Relucio-Princesa said the embassy dispatched a team to look into the story on Feb. 22, the day after the disturbing e-mail began circulating among Filipinos in the UAE.

Embassy investigators went to the Sheikh Khalifa Medical Center (SKMC), where the unidentified victim was said to have been brought, but were told by nurses and hospital officials that no women victims of sexual or physical abuse had been brought there.

Princesa said the team also went to other hospitals and the city morgue but found no unidentified female bodies bearing signs of physical abuse. Officials at the Bluhaya and Hilton police stations in Abu Dhabi told the embassy team they had not received any such reports.

On Feb. 24, Princesa said, she personally spoke to 9 Filipino nurses at SKMC. The nurses assured her that no Filipino victim of sexual or physical abuse had sought medical help at the hospital.

On March 15, Princesa met with Filipino community leaders and told them the alleged rape of two compatriots' women was not true and asked them to refrain from spreading the rumor.

On April 4, a Filipino identified as "Mina Lalandar" met with embassy officials and handed over a video of an unidentified woman being treated for severe cuts in an accident-like incident/locality.

An officer of the Abu Dhabi Criminal Investigation Division (CID), who viewed the true rape, noted that the attending physicians were speaking in Egyptian, asking the victim: "Who did this to you? Your boyfriend? Or your boss, a baby, [not clear]?" The victim in the video did not say a word but only moaned in pain.

To date, the police had not received any report of alleged rape or torture involving a Filipino woman.

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Veteran thin funnyman Palito dies

By Marinel R. Cruz
Entertainment

VETERAN COMEDIAN PALITO, whose real name was Reynaldo Higuillo, died Monday morning at the Philippine General Hospital of complications from lung problems. He was 76.

Palito (Tinidor Pick or Matchstick), who was given the moniker for his unusually thin physique, passed away at 7:05 a.m., according to his son, Jhona. He had complained of severe pain in the chest a few minutes before he died.

"I wasn't around when Tatay died. I was in a long queue at the hospital to secure a guarantee letter for his release. When I came back, it was my sister Arlyn who said Tatay had opened his eyes and cried a few minutes before he died," Jhona told the newsmen by phone.

Jhona added: "We could have saved him, medication-wise. God see had not helped. I cried each time I saw how Tatay suffered. I felt so helpless."

Higuillo was scheduled to undergo a CT scan on April 6 but his children opted to cancel it because they didn't have the money for the procedure.

Higuillo is survived by a wife and six children. His remains lie in the Loyola Memorial Chapels in Guadalupe, Makati City. Interment details will be announced later.

The ERR 7 program With Or Long, which featured a story on Higuillo in 2009 will shoulder the funeral expenses, said the network's corporate communications department.

Jhona said the family had sought financial help from his father's friends in show business. The Philippine Charity Sweepstakes had also promised to help.

"We're very thankful to those who helped," he said. "What's sad was that we were getting a lot of text messages from people introducing themselves as Bobie Padilla, Rita Aquino, John Prats, Francine Prieto and Jericho Rosales. They all said help would arrive."

Jhona said former actor and president Joseph Estrada, a contemporary of his father's, visited the comedian Sunday night.

"We're grateful to him. He made Tatay very happy when he dropped by," he said.

Higuillo's career peaked in the 1960s when he starred in several comedy films, parodying American action movies such as "Rambolo," a spoof of "Rambo," and "James Bone," where he played the emaciated version of the British secret agent James Bond.

THE DAILY GOSPEL
Tuesday, April 13, 2010
2nd Week of Easter
Martin I
1st Reading: Acts 4:32-37
Gospel: Jn 3:7b-15
Because of this, don't be surprised when I say: 'You must be born again from above.'
The wind blows where it pleases and you hear its sound, but you don't know where it comes from or where it is going. It is like that with everyone who is born of the Spirit.
Nicodemus said again, "How can this be?" And Jesus answered, "You are a teacher of Israel, and you don't know these things!
Truly I say to you, we speak of what we know and we witness to what we have seen, but you don't accept our testimony. If you don't believe when I speak of earthly things, what then, when I speak to you of heavenly things? No one has ever gone up to heaven except the one who came from heaven, the Son of Man.
As Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, so that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.
Commentary:
"Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.'"
We cannot fill our hearts only with the things of this world and wonder how it is that there is an emptiness that gnaws us. How can we get to see this, you souls lost in our fast-paced

Lakas: Nograles departure a big loss

From page A1

doing that act. In that connection is saying that going to Cebu or going to Manny Villar is OK with the Palace?"

"Thank you," said Sen. Miriam Santiago's running mate in the Liberal Party. "That's a good development for us because this proves the Villaroyo conspiracy, right?" Roxas was referring to rumors that Ms Arroyo was secretly supporting Villar.

But Nograles' denial of unofficial Bagumbayan, denied that Nograles was ordered by the President to support Villar. "That's absolutely not true, up to now the Speaker has not talked to President Arroyo about his plans for 2010. He's just fed up with the way Lakas-Kampi is running the campaign," said Bagumbayan.

Party out of control

Nograles is reportedly steaming over the ruling party's apparent support for the wife of his rival, Davao Mayor Rodrigo Duterte, at point man in his home city and losing kept one of the loop of the Lakas-Kampi-CMD's affairs even though he is the coalition's vice chair and a senior member of its executive committee.

"Even as a senior officer of the party, I hardly know what's happening because they make decisions without the courtesy of even briefing us," Nograles said in a statement.

"Now what's the use of being with the administration party?"

HOGBALES: Litany of gripes

PROMAP: Lakas will survive.

he said.

Nograles was not invited to the party lead to attend the executive committee meeting to elect his replacement.

"I'm a senior party member and they only want to use me for their convenience? I think that is bad. I have been a good soldier but I do deserve some respect," Nograles said.

He also did not like the party's move to appoint Madeline "Bebot" Martini, the presidential assistance for special project, as its point man in Davao City even though she was a staunch supporter of Duterte, who is running for vice mayor.

Duterte's daughter Sara is running against Nograles for mayor of Davao City.

Clear and present danger

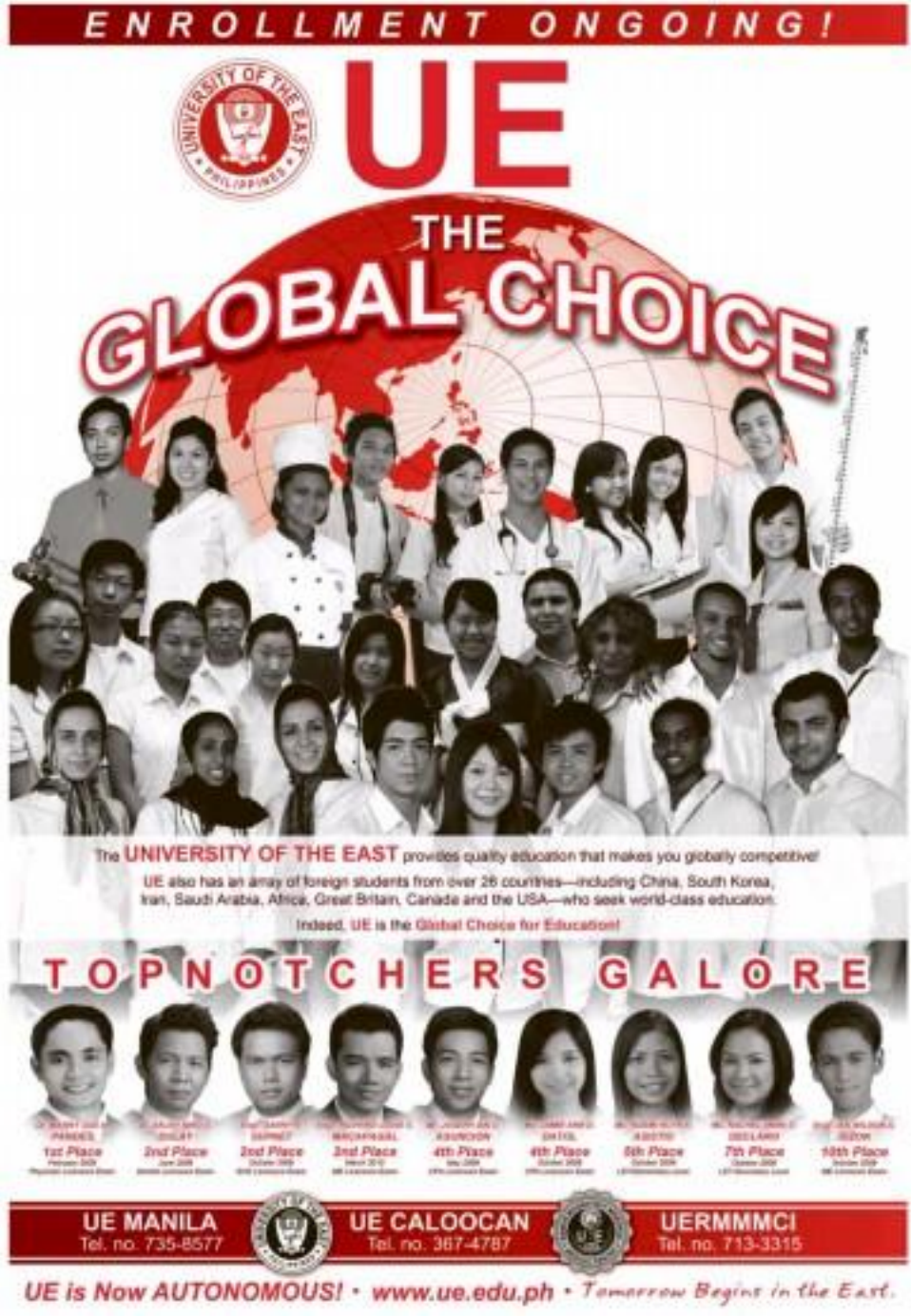
Nograles claimed that Martini was a supporter of Aquino, which he was not invited by

Bet sees big things for Siargao

LAWYER CONrancisco "Bambi" Navarro III, grandson of former Surigao del Norte political leader Constantino Navarro, is the Nacionalista Party (NP) candidate for representative of the first district of the province which includes Siargao, a top world surfing spot.

Navarro, eldest son of former Rep. Constantino "Baby" Navarro Jr., said he envisions Siargao as a tourism ecozone and international shipbuilding port.

Gov. Aiza Barbers is running for reelection also under the NP.



PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

OPINION

Campaign violence

EDITORIAL

IF NEWS IS "ANYTHING NEW UNDER THE SUN," then election-related violence in the Philippines would not count for news. In this country, violence comes with every election in that what would be news is if no violent marred the campaign season. In fact, with less than a month to go before this year's elections, political violence has erupted in many places across the land—to nobody's surprise. With some 170 private armies on the loose

(by official count) and 558 cities and towns identified as by the police as "hot spots," not to mention guns for hire and criminal syndicates that admirably could be used to quickly remove obstacles to one's ambition, it takes very little to spark violence.

After the most gruesome massacre in Ampatuan, Maguindanao, last Nov. 23, we thought political warlords could not do anything worse to make the 2010 elections the worst, if not violent, elections in Philippine history. And not just because the massacre was more than enough to render that ignominious distinction. More importantly, because it forced the hand of government to make long overdue moves against private armies—or so we thought.

On Dec. 4, 2009, 11 days after the massacre, President Macapagal-Arroyo announced the creation of a special commission to dismantle private armies in Maguindanao and to all hot spots. She completed its composition in the first week of January 2010, by naming Balisan Bishop Juan de Dios Pueblos as chair, and Mahmud Mala Adiloc of the Ulama-Ikhlasiyo Confederation, retired Brig. Gen. Jaime Echevarria, retired Police Deputy Director General Virtus Gil, Dante Jimenez of the Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption and broadcaster Herman Basbano as members.

If the creation of the special commission raised eyebrows, it was because Mr. Arroyo had close ties to the massacre's alleged masterminds: Maguindanao Gov. Andal Ampatuan Sr. and his son Andal Jr. (Datu Unsay mayor) and Zaldy (ARMM governor). The Ampatuans reportedly grew its private army to 4,000-strong during Mr. Arroyo's presidency and "engineered" her victory in the 2004 elections as well as the incredible 12-0 sweep of the administration's senatorial candidates in Maguindanao in 2007.

The commission was tasked to find "the root causes" of the massacre, Philippine Nation Police Director-General Jesus Verzosa said. But media organizations and militant groups asked for an independent body instead of a "blue-ribbon, rubber-stamped" one. Recalling the Melo Commission (named after its chair, retired Supreme Court Justice, now Cumadec Chair, Jose Melo) which was created to investigate media killings, Rapsol's Renato Reyes said it might be "just for show" which did not recommend any prosecutions.

Press Secretary Cerge Remonde, speaking for the President shortly before his unilaterally death, assured the public that Mr. Arroyo was "definitely" determined to put an end to private armies. "In fact . . . the commission is being given very broad powers to investigate, to tap all the agencies of government, with the goal in view of being able to finish its work of investigating, prosecuting and, if necessary, subverting its final recommendations for copycat actors before the May elections." The President herself directed the commission to finish it in four months.

Well, the four months is almost over. One would think that given the assurances from key government officials, poll violence would, at least, be on the wane by now. But indications are it's on the rise. And it's making its presence felt not only in the usual hot spots like La Union, Abra, Nueva Ecija and parts of the Bicol Region, but also in some unlikely arenas, like Antipolo City or even Makati and Manila.

In the meantime, very little has been heard from the commission especially about its "pursuit operations" against private armies. It is either being very modest about its accomplishments or it has achieved very little.

At the same time, the Commission on Elections, which has the power to deploy the police and military to stop political violence, has its hands full containing bonding scandals like the security folder fiasco or sedition suspicions stories like the transfer of ballot boxes to the Philpost warehouse. It seems that the agencies primarily tasked with keeping the 2010 elections honest, orderly and peaceful are themselves adding to the rise in peril to the least—by doing nothing.

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The only option

VIEWPOINT

Juan L. Mercado

"THAT'S WHERE UNDER THE BRIDGE," PRESidential candidate Gilbert Teodoro's staff could bring problems. "I think we too," Gary Green-dubs Unsia told Cebu Daily News editors. She flashed a green "Cebu" bracelet.

Just what is over-and-done with?

Both elected Senators's report that the First Gentleman asked the Garcias of Cebu to dump Cebu and back instead Manuel Villar, whose survey ratings continued to skid. That's for a "Villar-wo," albeit in opposites with JAM, tall-but votes.

Both promptly refer to the "Iran Deal" of 2003, when Cebu led 45 Nationalist People's Coalition congressmen, headed by tycoon Eduardo Cojuangco, in voting to impeach Supreme Court Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. The "package" included, among others, was Tourism Secretary Ace Durano, Sen. Francis Escudero, Rep. Jerome Sanantan Custodio, and then Representatives Constantino Jaraula and Wimpy Fuentebella.

The bid collapsed. But not before they "nearly drove democratic institutions over the cliff," the late Iray noted. The Deal "turned for a minute and that reminded placing support between Jesus Christ and Judas, although the odds favored Judas.

The same has happened, as Rampa's ghost did to Macbeth. Davide is resigned from his post, as one country's permanent representative to the United Nations. He manages for his son Hilario III, who is seeking the governor's post.

By all accounts, Hilario III seemed as a city councilor with integrity that he never fulfilled his potentials. All Cebu City councilors are equally trained. Mayor Tomas Osmeña never allows allies to mature from his personal entrapt into leaders. "Then dull and have strange gods before Tomas" Lobo told.

Oh the stamp. Davide more honestly questions on the impeachment Rasos. As a Bago City rally, he asserted that it was an effort to "weaken the judiciary's independence."

That will resonate within the Arroyo Supreme Court." Independence is not to wrong suit. In reverse accommodation of Rep. Jun Arroyo's gerrymandering in Camarines Sur, reverses the climb in its action.

The Davide Court, in contrast, ruled that the 10.08 billion coconut levy was public funds. Eduardo Cojuangco Jr. and his cronies insisted this was their private kitty. The editorial absolutely read that $800 million stashed in Swiss banks got to government over the Marcoses.

"Davide had to be taught who ran this country," lawyer's Randy David noted. Thus, the "Iran Deal" summed through House Resolution No. 400 to probe the Court's "administration" of the Judiciary Development Fund. A phrase "Arroyo justice committee ordered the Court to submit financial reports. Davide refused, politely saying the Court was a coequal body.

What if partners ride the Iran Deal's campaign to be unconstitutional? "Those justices will be impeached," Teodoro threatened. "That way, Erap justices without commit the same mistake."

That is arrogance. It exudes silver impunity. Once it is delivered, from a constitutional remedy of last resort into a filthy stick for political wranglers. No one would be safe then, Cojuangco, Judson realized would not. Understand?

A history abridged is not over the Iran Deal's bid to torment the articles of impeachment against Davide to the Senate. Respect the Court's position, 115 congressmen said. The 169,266 said 32 allies voted against.

Costly full page ads, placed by unknown groups, assailed Davide for "misdemeanors." Commissioners' paranoid internal wrangling damages. Shadowy persons seemed "evidence."

Journalism's ethical rules on attribution were shattered. That cripples today on the broadcast, non-verification, of Sen. Benigno Aquino III's alleged psychological profile. The themes in Manila University asserts this is a bogus report.

"The more serious the accusation, the more proof must be demanded." This hoary news-room axiom anchors other rules from "second-source" confirmation to bona fide checks and control.

Editing challenges more assertion. Facts are culled from allegations, spin from perspectives, and assertions from arguments. Winnowing truth from gap is a discipline called editing.

Socialist columnists Conrad de Quiros, link to Stonewall and Philippine Star's Dirk Pascual, among others, demanded facts on the alleged misuse of the Judiciary Development Fund. The Commission on Audit (COA) found that $1.68 billion, 20 percent of allocations, more than the mandated 10 percent.

"Professional accounting has shown that it is Ohn Cane'(s) impunchers who're treasurers are," Rep. Teodoro Locsin Jr. nerves. "Treasurers ain't" is an elegant word. Inability to tally two plus two implies omission or mendacity.

"COA declared there was no fund misuse," Teodoro's blog gamely admits seven years later. There's no conflict between Davide and Teodoro Cobble. In September 2009, Cebu presented a plaque of appreciation to Davide "for expanding Philippine participation in UN peacekeeping efforts."

Citizens find frayed the second generation from old dynasties would improve on their grasping elders. The book "An Anatomy of Pinoy" Ateneo University Press) articulates this logic. But The younger Arroyos, Estradas, Pimentelbaks, Enrileas, Ampatuans and assassin of Maguindanaos clusters) those aspirations. "Mala-it man ka gui-lan sa cebu," the Mactan proverb says. Bad chips from the old block.

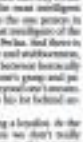
In the colonies "But bulgia theses and nations of enchantasia," Visayan Daily Star argued. "Surely, if upright men like Davide mean anything, it is this. Messy killing is not the only option left for this battered nation."

Email: jamilmercado@gmail.com

'Posible'

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros



POOR GIRL. IT MUST BE A LONELY PLACE when he's at right now. Though I don't know why he wouldn't have foreseen something like this happening to him.

He was a hot item from the start. It wasn't just that he would have been a find to expect his parent to be true to his word, though there's that, too. What did he think, the person who'd been the only one to say from day one would back out of 2008 would be true to her vow that she would never back out of him? You believe things like that, you should not be a politician, you should be a Pollyanna.

But it's not just he, it's him too. Cabal's campaign pitch was not of the opposite. Many Villar, one that seemed to belie impossibilities but was totally self-defeating, as self-refuting, in the end. Villar's pitch was that he was one of the poor, one with the poor, and one for the poor, a pitch that was refuted by a campaign rollout—its extravagance showed him to be one of the rich, one with the rich, and one only for himself. Teodoro's core pitch was that he was the most intelligent among the lot, a pitch refuted by the fact that he was a GMA protégé. As people kept saying, "Kung matalino sila, bakit sya na kay Gloria?" Their perception is it cannot be both.

That is the reason his campaign never really took off. Though he got some traction at the start by tapping the presidential race into a question of competence, scoring points with high visibility in the aftermath of "Ondoy"—aided in no small way by Sarmy Aquino being lured into the competence game—he was doomed to unravel. Quite simply, and in keeping with his realm, TV subvolumes he wound up, he let the country's conception of him, not to put it plain on deed. His presidential ambition was his plane, his association/identification/communion with GMA was his fuel.

So now, quo vadis? Where to go from here?

The easy bet goes to Gilberto was mea maximus.

He can stick to his guns and pursue a frolic campaign, debating himself into believing that he can now breathe easier without an albatross to sink him, or that he can now pursue a people's campaign without the baggage of party or government support. But which can only exhilarate him—but least because the one person in that entire host who is the most intelligent of the lot—not least because the one person in that entire host who is the most intelligent of the lot is also the most likely Pre-Sec. And there is a difference between resolve and stubbornness, between dream and mirage, between heroically reaching for things beyond one's grasp and pathetically pining for things beyond one's means.

Or he can quit and throw his lot behind another candidate.

There's little point to being a loyalist in the very least that is so because we don't really hold loyalists in high esteem in this country. We tend to see them as people whose hands are in the right places but whose heads are being hardwired like Linda Blair to "The Exorcist." In better than bulldogs, who have no many sides to them, and not by way of values, they themselves get confused which side they're on, but also no more than everybody else who runs over the light.

The loyalists of this country, quite incidentally, are the people who have remained faithful to the rulers this country owned by People Power: the Marcos loyalists and the Erap loyalists. And the group commands the respect of the attorney. GMA of course was never owned by People Power, but the pithiness that will accompany the day she steps out of Malacañang will steal the euphoria of the last two Edsas. If not indeed make them look like rapid metrosexuals. The Marcos loyalists are respected, indeed. The Erap loyalists are regard as laughable, the Gloria loyalists are still regard as masochists. If indeed there will be any of them to be found later. They can always call them retros "Coalition 4-11."

Quite apart from that, why should you be in search of someone who has been disloyal to you? The day Mahatahang withdrew to separate from Giles—in the real sense if not the symbolic one—was the day he was released from his oath of loyalty, if he ever made it. Why deny the line of succession by engaging in chair of Lukas? He walks away from that pit now and the public won't see it as lacking in strong resolve. It will see it as rediscovering sanity.

He walks away from that pit now, and he has a future ahead of him. He does not and has not to a part to the Bonifacio. It's obvious that he's one who he can throw his lot with. It can't be Manny Villar, who will simply be more of the same. And that will only add manifestos to bad taste. The reason he's where he's at right now is Villar's, as treasurer, a wedding, or wedding, of immaturity and identities as you can find. That is quite apart from Villar's and Arroyo's common penchant for not allowing themselves to be confined by the truth.

Of course there's always Iran, but that's just jumping from the fire to the frying pan. Arguably, it's a less embarrassing but it can't do wonders for someone priding himself with intelligence. Or for someone proposing to fly the country out of the pit. You can't fly with moon pegs.

I don't have to figure it out. It doesn't take a rocket scientist to do it, or indeed the most intelligent of the lot. Early in the campaign, some friends of mine did express a preference for Giles, saying that is go at least by the debates and the map he carried on the relief operations in Leyte. Now I'm not sure if he knows how to run things. Well, knowing how to run things depends on where you want to go. Yes, run things he will, and for GMA, you can only run things to the ground. You run things by, with, and for the interests of change, you can run on the runway and take off. Will he engage in the tack of time in the final reel and get the girl (or push her over the cliff)?

Posible.

Bogus report brings psycho issue to fore

CIRCULATING IN THE INTERNET AND COFFEE circles is a purported report issued by the Ateneo Department of Psychology in 1998 on the supposed diagnosis of a 30-year-old study mate named Benigno S. Aquino III in 1990. It alleged that the "patient" brought to the clinic by his mother suffered from various symptoms of a "major depressive disorder" such as "difficulty in speech, poor concentration, impaired thinking and a melancholia brought on by the death of his father and the break-up with his flight attendant girlfriend..." From the letterhead alone, however, where the Loyola Heights address was in the same line as the university's name, one realizes that despite the elaborate medical jargon, the report is bogus. No one who has studied in and dealt with the Ateneo for many years, I can attest that it's so parochial even about the external forms of its communications.

The report was quickly debunked by the department and by supposed signatory Fr Carmelo A. Caluag, S.J. Now a secular priest, Caluag said he was never with the Ateneo psychology department but was protected of the high school in 1998. At that time, Aquino was still a private citizen.

* * *

To some observers I've talked to, this document seemed believable because, but for the questionable, when Bonbon Aq'no Aki ADD/CDH senator said he was diagnosed with "mild depression," but that ADD seemed by the AP the "usual suspect" of any black ops against Noynoy, denied it. But it's hard to imagine that the MP would connect such a diagnosis to Noynoy's flight attendant girlfriend, And surely the MP knows that Caluag, a classmate of Noynoy in the Ateneo, also in the ABS-CBN's board and regularly co-hosts a dubfil show wearing his signature yellow attire. Surely he would not put his reputation on the line.

The theory that seems to be gaining currency among observers is that it could have been the Noynoy camp itself that floated that report to counter the "bad publicity" (or, more likely, the psychiatric report) on his psychiatric state about to come out. Former Sen. Ernesto Maceda, who was in exile in the US at the same time that the Aquino family was in the latter part of the Marcos era, said in the current handler of Joseph Estrada, was the first to raise this issue in his flaky Tribune column. Coffee shop hairsplitters theorize that if an authentic document on Noynoy's psychiatric health is the issue, he can live it rather than if what's reported is easier for his camp to deny it after that bogus report.

* * *

Whatever floated that bogus report, what it has succeeded in doing is to bring the state of Noynoy's mental and psychiatric health to the surface, where before it was just whispered about. A number of media personalities, such as Mike Enriquez of GMA Network's early hyper boss of Nelson, have noted his tendency to fly off at the slightest criticism from media and his seeming inability to handle stress. There are also occasional reports of manic and even depressive behavior. Some insiders relate that at a Cebu festival, Noynoy was repeating some bile he's with local officials and other guests when quite suddenly, he blew some of it over the face of a friend. To the chuck of those around him, Noynoy then began to laugh, as though it were a big joke.

* * *

Manny Villar, who hardly needs to overtake him in nerviness, has publicly proposed that he will become what is psychiatrically but hopefully humorously call "brain-free." Head has gone further and proposed that all the top aspirants take this test. The presidency is the most stressful job in the entire country and the mental and psychological state of whoever occupies the office is a matter of vital concern. Noynoy's spokesperson, lawyer Edwin Lacierda, however, has declined the challenge, saying that the state of a presidential candidate's mental, psychiatric and physical health is not important as the Constitution doesn't even make it a requirement for candidacy. It's true that the Charter is silent on this point, but the people should care about the mental health of their candidates and all the other presidential aspirants take this test.

* * *

In my 2003 series on relatives of presidential hets for Women's Month, Cecile Alvarez and I featured Margarita Gomez-Jaworski, Richard Gordon's only twin. Since we know my mother from way back, it was fun. Sure has her fair share of schizophrenic as flies out to mayor of Olongapo, for which she received two foreign awards, and two terms as chair of the Philippine Red Cross. But her greatest claim to fame, apart from being devoted wife to Dick, mother of his four kids and grandmother to 11, is that her father, an American, had brought Head For Dr. Christopher High School in Intramuros. Rare gets sparkly especially when asked if Dick would drop out of the presidential race because of his low survey ratings. "Are he in, Kenya ng Ambayo?" she quipped, drawing in answer to impeachment charges against Erap. Along with other Tsoknats, that "took-at Intramuros" humor ang sayang. Joaquin T. and sons." Kate and Dick and Noynoy Fernandez will fight to the finish despite their nominal resignations. Swayed by the same order of Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita, a matter vs. seen Good luck to the Kapamilyan team.

* * *

For years I have plugged the wonderful work Intercessory is doing to improve maternal care in the institution, then here by DC Dizon-Cleo of the Columbian mothers, it helps troubled married couples by conducting weekend seminars away from their families, where the partners can begin anew in communion with God. The next couple-only seminar is scheduled for April 23, to run through April 25, at the SAFE Formation Center at Mount Sinai, Antipolo City. Fees are P3,000 per pair. A promo call away: Call Father Cleo at tel. 899-8482-9111 and 525-6900. Also at 0907-315-3755, 0918 or 0939-383-3247, Metro at 0917 800 7223, and fax at 0998 918 7979.

Making a distinction

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

I don't know if Chiz was the right thing to do, but the right of a president to a substitute could perhaps have been done a bit by the current presidential aspirants with disability. On the other hand, perhaps Roosevelt and his staff felt it was important to project an image of strength rather than of ill-ness battling the depression and then found World War II.

Aquino was right in refusing to argue the state of his mental health given that this was based on a bogus document. Even earlier, he already opposed Senator Bongbong Marcos's proposed "banning disability" that he would use the opportunity to show his solidarity with and speak up for the rights of people with mental illness and disabilities, as well as of their families.

And what better way to say about a candidate who would wade on the stigma against mental illness and learning disability just to take potshots at an opponent?

* * *

CLARIFICATION: Developments on the party-list front do not mean that the concept of the party-list system, conceived as a way of "leveling" the field of politics by allowing groups representing marginalized sectors to win seats in the House of Representatives, has been turned almost beyond recognition.

Still, at least three days is the desire of presidential son and Pampanga Rep. Mikey Arroyo and former Pangasinan Rep. Jose de Venecia III to run in Congress via two party-list groups. At press wolney to represent a party-list advocating the rights of security guards, Bonbon is the No. 1 nominee of 1 Utak, a group representing the Kapampangan people, which already won one seat in the 2007 elections.

Jose, Arroyo and Reyes may only be two of many other individuals seeking to represent sectors or groups to which their affiliations entail congressional seats. If only lawmakers would be concerned who they are and their responsibilities in government, they must not so pronounce examples of candidates defying the common understanding of what it means to be party-list representatives.

In a media forum last week, Reyes explained that he formally joined 1-Utak last January so as "advisor," but long before that he had been meeting and advising representatives of transport groups and other sectors.

1-Utak director Orlando Marquez also explained that they contacted Reyes to be their first nominee because "the problems of the transportation sector are complex and only someone knowledgeable with heavy experience and contacts to help them can it back on track."

* * *

COMMERCE in the clubby atmosphere of the Senate of Supreme Court justices, laughed out one more likely to listen and pay attention to an Angelo Reyes (or a Hilary Arroyo) rather than to a former jueteny driver or boxer.

But to say that only drivers or operators would be less able to understand and articulate the concerns of his sector than a former Cabinet member would be fallacious. The party-list provisions in the Constitution, I believe, was designed precisely to allow those who have been historically sidelined in the political arena. To say then that such groups should be represented instead by individuals who would be able to win office by running as "regular" candidates, and who would be more familiar and likely with the problems that drivers or operators have daily then for the face of the framers' intent.

I can sympathize with Comelec officials who say that "technically" we have party-list groups like Reyes, although in his column expressing former Chief Justice Artemio Panganiban said the issue of groups' party-list representation was settled clearly and firmly. If Reyes or Arroyo will be represented by lawyers or spokesmen, then the party-list system can work. I'm sure they they will have "brains angels" standing over them.

Black propaganda: Chiz & Jejomar version

NEWSSTAND

John Nery

IT WAS A REAL PRIVILEGE TO SERVE. AS A resource person on a roundtable conference organized by the National Academy of Science and Technology last week. I hope to set aside some space sometime soon to discuss the provocative insights of ministers Ricardo Saludo and Ric Diza, the other guest speaker; for now allow me to acknowledge the stimulating company of Sr. Maria Evangelista, Cielito Castillo, Mercedes Concepcion and Teodolfo Tapanes Jr., as well as Loren's perfect (I hope Dr. Dave and Basil Fidalgo of the IPO School of Economics).

* * *

I am looking for a copy of Anthony Reid's "Imperial Alchemy" published by Cambridge University Press last December. But even Bookfest in Rhythm Place in Singapore has a copy in stock. If someone can point me in the right direction, I would be much obliged.

It may be a mere custom to say that the ongoing election season is the busiest in memory. How to add some new (literally) and potent Ilocano metaphor of comparison?

The use of so-called text blasts to spread rumor or to attempt misinformation has come into its own in the 2010 campaign. Almost two years ago, I wrote in this same space that an operative with access to the database of a telecom firm was one that he was responsible for about 2,000 telephone lines or telephone numbers, with which to help shape the results of elections in favor their patron. In the 2010 campaign season, though, the text blast has become a strategic weapon of choice.

In the beginning, right about September last year, I started receiving from various anonymous senders angelic, sometimes downright scandalous, text messages about political personalities. (The curious the cure is the same with other personalities.) I used to delete the messages right away; they always left a pungent taste in the mouth. Then, starting earlier, I decided to create a separate folder for them, just in case I decided to keep them in. I had the vague idea that, if time allowed, I could look for patterns in these messages—and perhaps identify the campaigns behind them. Today, there are 197 messages in that folder, most of them negative indeed.

I seem to remember that Sen. Manny Villar was the principal target ("Villar=nay") of a plurality of these messages, but as the months went by, the folder's contents I have since realized that, especially in the early months, Sen. Noynoy Aquino (and 4DS CDS, with the happier dichotomously unredacted a couple of times) came in for their share of negative messages. Remember the surprising thing zero some of the most intriguing messages were messages sent from Team Pnoy Aquino and Team Jojo Binay.

The turning point (I suppose), on Oct. 18, started a recurring message: "Tatol tatbolar ko system, libre kita discuss... so I can "normal" love ho nen 2 SMAE SUPER USERAE." This was one of the few "Super Ukrine" messages I was able to keep, from that batch. Its sender was a friend of the father's cousin.

Lay people to blame too

LETTERS

THERE IS NO ONE-TO-ONE correlation between a pope's/bishop's sanctity or weakness and the holiness of our brother-the Church. This is the only consolation for Catholics who are deeply insulted by the pedophile scandal, including the possibility that popes might not have served as eligible as they should have.

Three have been dominating popes, notorious popes, was loving, greedy, ambitious and flamboyant, but popes. All that within the Church nourished saints, comforted the sinners and inspired artists.

Lay people may be partly to blame. Because there has been a long series of remarkable men who have served as popes and bishops in our lifetime, we have shown excessive deference to the clergy, especially those who are deeply involved in the day-to-day life of the Church. Lay people have ceased to do what is distinctive, such as discerning what will be the Church position on secular matters, and mixed secular-religious matters. Those include, among others, working out a land reform policy for the Church, a position, an initiative, at presidents, an urban poor policy consistent and a policy on Christian-Muslim affairs in Mindanao.

If lay people had been more involved in the Church and done their job, we might have avoided the present problem.

—RENE ESCALANTE, Urban Poor Associates, 25-A Malvalida St., Barangay Central, U.dist, Quezon City

When men and women use free will, the devil is not far behind

SEX ABUSE SCANDALS REPORTED by involving some members of the clergy have rocked the Vatican and are causing embarrassment to the Catholic Church hierarchy.

Abuses committed by some or a few members of a community, whether men or women, whether religious, professional, political or civic, etc., are horrendously not unconscious and are in fact expected, though not to be condoned. Men and women, however noble and exhibit their inconsistencies may be, have the free will to do good or evil.

Here in the company of angels, Lucifer opted to exercise his free will and dared to vie to his Creator. "I will be like unto Him!" So did Adam and Eve without the influence of original sin. Thus, the necessity of love and order—not to eliminate the power (free will), but to put a trim on, in Catholic exercise and to assign responsibility therefor.

Thus the sins of a few do not cancel out the virtues of the many among them men and women who have opted to dedicate and commit their lives to the service of the Catholic Church. Nor can we disregard or belittle the virtue of conscientious objectors under the power of the devil who will never succeed in his to subvert his life and oh no more. St. Paul is a classic example. Ex. Ingenuous of Hippo is another.

However, we should always bear in mind that whenever and wherever we see the power of our free will to do good, the devil is not far behind.

—ARNOLF D'ORO AVILA, agave1111@yahoo.com

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Letters to the editor are requested to include their complete address and telephone or pager number or e-mail address for verification purposes. The Inquirer will not publish any letter unless such information is supplied.

INQUIRER

Agra's amazing transformation

ACTRESS JUSTICE SECRETARY Alberto Agra was one of our favorite lawyers in the recently concluded Mandatory Continuing Legal Education (MCLE) for practicing lawyers in Quezon City. We were proud to have him as the eminent intellectual, dapat, legal acumen and common sense. Little did we realize he was donning a different persona when he spoke before us.

In the April Fool's Day issue of the Inquirer, Agra was reported as having advised President Macapagal-Arroyo to go ahead with all the "midnight appointments" because it was sanctioned by the most recent Supreme Court ruling which, according to him, permitted the effect of prospective midnight appointments. Presidential spokesman Ricardo Saludo is not known, persistent enough to question the legal basis of Agra's assertion. Because there has been a long series of remarkable men who have served as popes and bishops in our lifetime, we have shown excessive deference to the clergy, especially those who are deeply involved in the day-to-day life of the Church. Lay people have ceased to do what is distinctive, such as discerning what will be the Church position on secular matters, and mixed secular-religious matters. Those include, among others, working out a land reform policy for the Church, a position, an initiative, at presidents, an urban poor policy consistent and a policy on Christian-Muslim affairs in Mindanao.

If lay people had been more involved in the Church and done their job, we might have avoided the present problem.

—RENE ESCALANTE, Urban Poor Associates, 25-A Malvalida St., Barangay Central, U.dist, Quezon City

'Handsome eloquence' hides questionable integrity

THE ADMINISTRATION'S 'great' candidate

INQUIRER

Earth Day 2010

Take action for Mother Earth! Join the 10 Million Movement

Fix leaky faucets

Check them regularly

Register your Green Act at: www.14mm.ph or text GREEN MIO homeowner's number and barangay/street and send to 0917 or email earthday.pinx@gmail.com

Beware of political opportunists, Noynoy warned

A foundation of faith

COMMENTARY

Sen. Agnilibro Pimentel Jr.

INQUIRER

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INQUIRER LEARNING

E-VAT and WATERED-DOWN CHEAPER MEDICINES ACT

ARE NOT PRO-POOR

AS MAR ROXAS CLAIMS

Senator Mar Roxas, you have always **CLAIMED** to be pro-poor with your battle cry of **"Lalaban Tayo"** and image dressing as **"Mr. Palengke"** and **"Mr. Padyak"**.

MAR ROXAS - PRINCIPAL SPONSOR OF E-VAT LAW

Senator Loren Legarda publicly criticized this law.
She foresaw the HUNGER that this law would cause our poor people.

Eighty per cent (80%) of our Filipinos are living below the poverty line. Yet, **YOU ARE ONE OF THE PRINCIPAL SPONSORS OF THE E-VAT Law**. Every Filipino, rich like you, or poor like most Filipinos - pay 12% more for the basic necessities for living. **FOOD, MEDICINES, GASOLINE, TRANSPORTATION, ELECTRICITY** and **WATER** have become expensive because of **YOUR E-VAT LAW!** Ito ay lubusang pampahirap sa mga maralitang Pilipino! How can you claim yourself to be **PRO-POOR?**

MAR ROXAS - PRINCIPAL AUTHOR OF A WATERED-DOWN VERSION OF THE CHEAPER MEDICINES ACT

WHY DID YOU NOT PUSH FOR, AND SPONSOR THE ORIGINAL VERSION?

Senator Loren Legarda opposed your version and she supported the Biron-Suplico Version.

BIRON-SUPLICO VERSION	MAR ROXAS' CHEAPER MEDICINES LAW
1500 essential medicines to be included in the list of discounted medicines	Included only 22 essential medicines
Reduction of price of essential medicines by 80 to 90 per cent	Allowed only a 50 per cent discount on essential medicines

You claim your version to be **"Para sa lahat"**. Ngayon, **LAHAT** ay naghihirap pa rin, dahil sa paglulusaw mo ng **BIRON-SUPLICO** version ng Cheaper Medicines Act! Hindi pa rin abot-kaya ng mga maralita ang bumili ng gamot!

In fact, **Senator Mar Roxas**, you have sponsored laws which have been a continuing and oppressive burden to the poor. With these kind of laws, how can you claim to be **PRO-POOR?**

RONALD A. LUMBAO
National Chairman

PMAP

People's Movement Against Poverty

Assistant Editor Tony Bergonia

Across the NATION

NEWSBRIEFS

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO

NPA leader arrested

A SUSPECTED leader of the communist New People's Army in Central Luzon was arrested in San Simon, Pampanga, on Sunday, an army official said.

Rosemarie Buenga, 49, was arrested by a team of soldiers and policemen based on warrants for robbery and murder handed down by Judge Midaeta, commander of the Army's 703rd Infantry Brigade, said.

Maharlika said Buenga, who reportedly used the aliases Irene Sanchez, Cindy and Gita, headed NPA teams operating in Pampanga, Bulacan and Pangasinan.

But Karapatan, a human rights advocate group, said Buenga was even a peasant organizer who worked in San Simon to manage and herself with the villages where she lived and worked.

Xianthe Olalia,
Inquirer Central Luzon

TAGUM CITY

Spray plane crashes

A LIGHT plane used for spraying fungicides on banana plantations crashed in a village early Sunday, police said.

The injured pilot of the Cessna 206 model, Capt. Randy Malgas, was brought to the Davao Regional Hospital, city police chief Supt. Buenaventura Bartolini said.

The aircraft, owned by Philippine Agricultural Aviation, was on its way to Barangay Tangaran in nearby Digkil town when it went down at the vicinity of Purok Mangga, Barangay Pagsabangan, at 7:20 a.m., he said.

Arianne Lim, *Inquirer Mindanao*

LANAO DEL NORTE

Women bets endorsed

WOMEN leaders and activists in Lanao del Sur endorsed the senatorial candidacy of Yasmin Busran-Lao and vice presidential aspirant Sen. Loren Legarda during a peace forum at the Mindanao State University at Marawi City on Friday.

Mindanao Youth Leader Jamaliah Bandis, one of the forum conveners, said the support was meant to strengthen the chances of women leaders in occupying important posts, especially in the national government.

Busran-Lao is a Liberal Party candidate, in government Mamman met recently personality who has been active in the national peace movement.

Ryan D. Rosauro,
Inquirer Mindanao

SURIGAO DEL NORTE

Bet for Siargao dev't

LAWYER Constantino "Gariga" Navarro III, who is running as congressman for the first district, envisions to make Siargao a tourist destination, a maritime hub and international shipbuilding venue.

Navarro, the eldest son of former Rep. Constantino "Dating" Navarro Jr., said he would pursue a good governance leadership. He is a Bible teacher and a loving family man pushing for moral reforms, according to a media release.

CEBU

Defective land titles

THE CONSUMERS Union of the Philippines (CUP) has advised land buyers and investors to protect their interests from flawed titles by verifying the location of the land being sold.

The Cebu provincial government was recently reported as having bought a 20-hectare property in Naga, Cebu, some 35 hectares of which the Department of Environment and Natural Resources found to be timberland and partly submerged at sea, and for which investors and title consolidation proceedings are supposedly being pursued, according to a news release.

"We strongly urge the land buying public to take proper precaution in the technical descriptions that every certificate of title is required to contain, for this is the means by which one could know last the land is identity, meaning its exact location, configuration, size and metes and bounds," the CUP said.

Comval top officials switch to Villar

By Fritzie Lim, *Inquirer Mindanao*

TAGUM CITY—TOP OFFICIALS OF COMPOSTELA Valley led by Gov. Arturo Uy and a majority of the province's 11 mayors have resigned from the ruling Lakas-Kampi-CMD, dumping its presidential candidate Gilbert Teodoro for Nacionalista Party's Sen. Manuel Villar.

In Cebu, more mayors were expected to also jump to Villar's camp.

It's officially stepped down as Lakas provincial chair in a meeting with allies here on Sunday, saying recent upheavals in the party's national structure had caused disenchantment among members across the country.

He cited the resignations of Teodoro and Davaoguel Gov. Rene Miguel Dominguez as party president and chair, respectively.

"The party has lost its sense of direction. We don't even know who the campaign manager is, who the regional chair for Region 11 (Compostela Valley) is," Uy said.

Also leaving Lakas were Rep. Manuel "Way Kurat" Zamora (New Bataan), four of the district's five mayors and all 15 members of the provincial board under the Uniteng Comval party, including Zamora's daughter, Maria Clemora Zamora, ex-Spanx, a congressional candidate.

Rep. Ruperto Amatong (second district) has opted to remain with Lakas-Kampi-CMD. But Uy said, this "does not mean that our local party is disbanding. We remain united."

"I'm looking at the future of the province. I believe Villar can do a lot for Compostela Valley in terms of projects and programs if he wins in the elections. We have the same priorities, like increasing the income of our farmers and fishermen," Uy said.

He said the Uniteng-Comval party had yet to decide on whether to support among the vice presidential candidates.

Villar's pulse mate in Cebu, Mayor Conie Barrientos of Dumaguete town, said he was talking to some mayors to convince them to join the NP-mastered-heaven's camp.

But Barrientos, who is president of the Cebu Municipal Mayors League (CMML), acknowledged that the situation was still fluid and reported some of the mayors to decide this week.

The mayor and One Cebu Party spokesperson Rory Jen Repulverda clarified that the six mayors and 173 officials from the first district had not defected to Villar, contrary to earlier reports.

Through they signed the resolutions of support for Villar, Barrientos said, the move was expected because they belonged to Alayon, a local party of Rep. Eduardo Gullas (first district). Alayon and the NP had an alliance on the national level, but Alayon is allied with One Cebu on the local level.

"Mayon can't force One Cebu to support their bets in the national level in the same manner that One Cebu cannot also force Alayon to support our bets for the national positions," Repulverda said. *With a report from Maureen Wape/Baguio, Inquirer Visayas*

Olongapo is 'tarpaulin capital,' says JC

By Robert Gonzaga
Inquirer Central Luzon

OLONGAPO CITY—DISMAYED at the sight of giant billboards of members of two rival political clans here, Ang Kapatirang Iboto (Brotherhood Inc.) Jaime Cardo "JC" Gordon Reyes said the Commission on Elections had allowed this city to become the "tarpaulin capital of the Philippines."

Dr. Joe Reyes, who was back in his hometown last week for a hard-hitting campaign said to support the party's two candidates for councilor, said the Comelec's inability to enforce its laws was making it hard for them to get noticed.

He said Sammy Matias and Jonathan de Castro could not compete until what he called "flagrant violations" of both the Gordon and Magsaysay clans, whose members are battling for the mayoral seat of the city and a congressional seat in Cantaloni first district.

"I don't think the Comelec is serious about its own rules (The pull body) clearly does not have the capability to enforce them. In this city alone, these violations should have already been disqualified," said Dr. Joe Reyes, a nephew of Sen. Richard Gordon, who is running for president under the Bangon Bayan party.

The billboards, which in some instances is high as ten to three-story buildings and just as wide, have been seen all over the city even before the official campaign period for the presidential race started.

The mess thoroughfares have also been covered by these billboards on the fronts of the mayoral, congressional and city council candidates of the Gordon and Magsaysay camps could not be missed by potential voters.

Even the third candidate for mayor, Jerome Bauzy, had his share of giant billboards. He, however, is banned only on the billboards because he is running without a vice mayor or a slate of councilors.

"If the Gordons said this is a showcase city. But the one thing that is remarkable here are the violations of the May Election Act," Dr. Joe Reyes said.

He lamented the fact that until our presidential candidates coming from Olongapo City, it was ironic that the Comelec could not enforce its laws here.

"This is happening under our Dik and Senator Gordon's noses," he said.

Provincial Board Member Jason Gordon Jr., his uncle and Gordon's brothers said the area reluctant to take down his billboards "because the other side might not take down theirs."

"It's the Comelec that has to do that. It must enforce its own rules," he said.

Former Barangay Gov. Vicente Magsaysay, who is running against Gordon Jr., said the Comelec should do its job.

"If they see a violation, they see how to implement their regulations," he said.

Lawyer Nonoy Lobo, acting city election supervisor, said the Comelec had informed all candidates about the campaign guidelines as early as March.

He said when the local campaign started on March 26, a letter was sent to the candidates regarding the violations for their continued holdouts.

"They will be given due process and a few days to comply. I explained this to them myself," he said.

OUTSIZED BILLBOARDS These billboards in Olongapo City are only just a few meters away from the Comelec office and City Hall, but were not included in their drive to remove outsized campaign materials under "Operation Baklas."

ROBERT GONZAGA/INQUIRER CENTRAL LUZON

'Trekathon' to raise funds for Makiling rehab

SAN PEDRO, LAGUNA—A HOPing and usually slippery terrain adds to the challenge of the first Makiling Trekathon on April 18.

The fund-raising event, a combination of walk/hike/run called the 1,090-meter Mount Makiling to Los Baños, Laguna, is sponsored by the College of Forestry and Natural Resources (CFNR) and the Makiling Center for Mountain Ecosystems (MCME) at the University of the Philippines Los Baños.

Proceeds will be used for the rehabilitation of Makiling's slopes and hiking trails after these were ravaged by Supertyphoon "Milenyo" in 2006. The mountain side lost hundreds of its century-old trees.

"After Milenyo, we started efforts to take in more course of recovery. But here came (Typhoon) 'Ondoy' (in September 2009) and the mountain was damaged again," said MCME Deputy Director Roberto Cremas.

Forest experts are now applying "human intervention" by engineering the trails and replanting of trees, he said.

Some 200 outdoor groups and Makiling mountaineers are expected to join the "trekathon," a five-kilometer route from the CFNR building to the mahogany plantation of Makiling's Station 4, and the 5.6-km route from the building to the heart reserve.

Registration fee is P300 each.

"This could also be a 'mountaineering' trek for the alumni (of the college)," Cremas said. The activity marks the celebration of the CFNR's 100th founding anniversary.

The college, which occupies a portion of the forest reserve, was the first forestry academic institution and the only one of its kind in the Philippines until 1969.

It has also remained to be the only forestry school with a training laboratory, Cremas said. *Marvian Cleon Inquirer Southern Luzon*

Plan to hike Negros power rates decried

BACOLOD CITY—OFFICIALS OF Negros Occidental have decried a plan to increase power rates by P1.40 per kilowatt hour purportedly to address the problem of brownouts in the province.

Gov. Isidro Zayco and City Mayor Evelio Leonardia on Sunday said the increase being proposed by the Central Negros Electric Cooperative (Cenece) to its coverage area was too high for residential consumers.

On Friday, Cenece general manager Rolphie Laguardo Jr. said the cooperative would consult local government leaders before signing an alternative power source to reduce the frequent power outages in this could mean that consumers would pay more.

The brownouts were caused by preventive maintenance work being done at Unit 3 of the coal-fired plant in Sual town in Pangasinan province.

Laguardo said Cenece was considering buying a diesel power from Global Energy Resources in Iloilo, which could result in an increase in power rates from P6.31 per kWh to residential areas in P7.71.

Leonardia said he would ask Cenece if the replacement power could be supplied only to business areas. For his part, Zayco urged the cooperative to look for a cheaper replacement. *Carlo E Cabuenas, Inquirer Visayas*

Soldiers bike for peace in Maguindanao

SHARIFF AGUAK, MAGUINDANAO—Government soldiers and some civilians joined a "Bike for Peace" on Saturday to underscore the importance of peace and order conditions in the province.

Led by Col. Shaira Mendoza, 1040th Army Brigade commander, the 20-kilometer "biketathon" kicked off at around 6 a.m. from Esperanza town to Sultan Kudarat and ended 20 minutes later at the Capitol here.

Four battalion commanders under the unit based in Tacurong City, members of the federation of All-Terrain Cycling Enthusiasts, the Tacurong City Red Cross and local media practitioners participated.

"The aim is to reach to be done in terms of achieving total peace. There are still sporadic firefights, but those were reduced both in intensity and frequency. Slowly but surely we are achieving our mission in bringing a peaceful Maguindanao," Mendoza said.

He said the buzz for the Arroyo-ians' annual Halloween resumed. They are avoiding direct confrontation with the government forces, he added. *Agustin Pedroso, Inquirer Mindanao*

40 top Bicolano artists join Magayon Festival

By Roy M. Nicart
Inquirer Southern Luzon

LEGAZPI CITY—THE WORKS of more than 50 top Bicolano artists will be exhibited at the Albay Provincial Capitol Annex here as one of the highlights of the nonbiking Magayon Festival in Albay.

The festival, which has 200 events, opened on April 9 and offers what Gov. Joey Salceda—forced to say "all the lovely sights and sounds for all tourists, local and foreign ... to enjoy."

Main Hometown, Hot Stones and Drivers "Bill King" Gonzales, and sculptors Ely Reotas, Vi. some "Boxing Bout" Alvarado and Shanty Santos, among other artists.

Albay, a post-modern municipalities, is among the few who dominates about art expressionism in the country.

Pianos talent in "Magayon II" and "Dap-at Magayon," both in acrylic. Since animated their own

HOMETOWN Snapshot

A CAVE filled with mummified corpses and skeletons in Kabayan, Benguet, needs state support because decay has again crept into the indigenous crypts.

DETERIORATING STATE

Caves of mummies off-limits to visitors

KABAYAN, BENGUET—KABAYan's centuries-old mummies are but threatening and local officials are alarmed that their condition might earn the ire of their ancestors' spirits.

The ban forced Mayor Bonifacio Aquiam to declare Timbac cave in Barangay Pacso, Opdas cave in Barangay Poblacion and Bangao cave in Barangay Gusaran off-limits to visitors, pending measures that the National Museum would enforce to arrest the damage on the mummies.

"A visit to the caves was always a part of our summer treks to Mt. Pulag. But this time, we decided to impose a ban to enable us to save the mummies," Aquiam told the Inquirer.

The ban was also imposed to prevent the theft of parts of the mummies, which have often tempted visitors who take them as souvenirs.

Betty Anagan, the municipal tourism officer, said the desiccations of the mummies has reached a critical stage.

"The bones and the skulls' skin are fast decaying. The body parts of the mummies are falling off, while many are being busted again by tourists and trekkers," he said.

Moisture and exposure to the elements had caused the mummies' decay, he added.

Anagan said National Museum experts who assessed the mummies' condition told him those suffered from fungal and other bacterial infections.

National Museum personnel assessed local officials they would retrain Isnet this month or in May to do cases "facial cleaning" on the mummies.

Anagan said measures to arrest the condition might be taken in Bitiko Manda to allow them to undergo a detailed laboratory cleaning.

Some fires caused by the dry spell have also taken their toll on the mummies, he said.

The Bira, he said, have come close to the mummies' eyes areas near the entrance of the caves were not spared, he said.

Missing parts of the mummies is also a common concern.

In Opdas cave alone, Anagan said, around 100 skulls have been left from more than 400 skulls recorded in the past.

Timbac, Opdas and Bangao caves were the only burial caves the town has opened for tourists.

Kabayan has other mummy caves but elders said visiting them was taboo since the mummies were considered sacred and should never be disturbed, Aquiam said. Dehcor Cariño, Inquirer Northern Luzon

3 years after, 2 Iloilo activists still missing

By Nestor-R Burgos Jr.
Inquirer Visayas

ILOILO CITY—THE FAMILIES and colleagues of two missing activists in Iloilo on Monday rallied on their behalf for the abduction three years ago to prevent them for the sake of "peace of mind."

To mark the anniversary of the disappearance of Sharlo Leizo Pena Cantimbuhan and Nilo Nicolas, members of the Bayan Luzon and Nilo Movement and militant groups held a caravan from Iloilo City to the abduction site in Barangay Cabatuan in Oton town, 7 kilometers south.

Bonifacio, spokesperson in Panay of Selda, the organization of former political detainees, and Alvido, regional chair of Bagong Alyansang Makabayan, have remained missing since their vehicle was waylaid by unidentified armed men on April 13, 2007.

Their companion, human rights worker Jose Ely Carambas, was shot and wounded but was left behind by the attackers.

Bonifacio's elder brother Louie Pena said the past three years had been "agonizing and frustrating" for their families.

"We have not stopped looking for them. We have followed up every lead or tip and we have relied on our legal system in the hope of finding our loved ones. But they have not been returned to us," Pena told the Inquirer in a telephone interview on Monday.

The victims' families and colleagues have blamed military agents for the disappearance, pointing to the similarity of the manner of the abduction with those of other cases in other places in the country. Military officials have repeatedly denied the claim.

The Iloilo Regional Trial Court is hearing a petition for a writ of amparo filed by the families of the missing activists against police and military officials.

Pena said the petition for a writ of amparo had dragged from repeated postponements. The writ compels state agents to look for a missing person.

The agents can also be held liable if the court person finds they did not exert enough effort in finding the missing person.

"The case has been so slow and discouraging but our family and friends continue to hope that something positive will still come out of this," Pena said.

Alvido's wife Rosemarie said she and their son, Daniel Marshal, had not stopped hoping. "Our son has not stopped looking for his papa and we miss him so much," she said.

BATAAN HOTEL REHAB

SC dismisses damage suit vs Peza executive

By Vincent Cabreza
Inquirer Northern Luzon

BAGUIO CITY—THE SUPREME court has dismissed a damage suit filed against the former Bataan Economic Zone administrator for allegedly harassing a contractor tasked with rehabilitating a Bataan hotel in 1994.

The high tribunal's Third Division dismissed on April 7 a civil case pending before a Manila Regional Trial Court against zone administrator Irene Quindoza, who now manages the Baguio City Economic Zone.

Godfrino International Philippines Inc., the firm contracted in 1994 to rehabilitate and operate the now defunct Hotel and Country Club in Mariveles town, sued Quindoza and the Philippine Economic Zone Authority before a Manila RTC for refunding their contract in 1996.

The Peza board had terminated the deal due to the firm's supposed violations and unpaid obligations.

Godfrino filed a separate case at the Bataan RTC, accusing Quindoza of harassing hotel operations.

The Firm claimed that Quindoza, in 2001, widened the excavation of the only road leading to the hotel for a re-piping project. It said then officials also erected a large sign that read "Road closed," and had briefly obstructed a water line that supplied the facility.

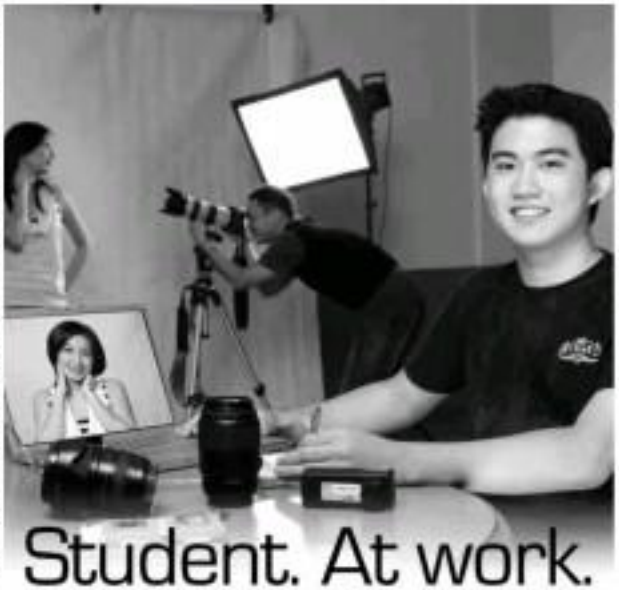
Quindoza had asked the court to dismiss the charges, saying it was not the proper venue for the case since the suit targeted the government, in effect, an accused Godfrino of forum shopping.

The RTC proceeded with the suit, and was not reversed by the Court of Appeals when the matter was elevated there.

The Supreme Court said the RTC failed to determine that Sheila Yost, Bataan Hilltop Hotel manager, who filed the suit, had an authority from the board of directors to proceed with the case.

"Administrator Quindoza was sued for damages for certain acts that he allegedly committed while he was the zone administrator. ... Therefore, the complaint is in the nature of suit against the state," it said.

The court, saying the RTC committed "grave abuse of discretion amounting to lack of jurisdiction," reversed the CA ruling and dismissed the RTC suit.



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'Holocaust' feared in Candaba bird haven

By Tonette Orejas
Inquirer Central Luzon

CANDABA, PAMPANGA—Warning of an "avian holocaust" in an important wetland here, conservationists raised concern for the safety of local and migratory birds and their habitat after a pond owned by the family of Mayor Jerry Pelayo was drained and the drought further dried it up.

"We don't take off the water. That's holocaust for the water birds," Anie Jenson, an ornithologist, said in a telephone interview on Sunday.

The pond, located in Pasong Bay San Public Vital here, belongs to a 72-hectare estate within the Candaba Swamp, a 30,000-ha wetland that covers parts of Nueva Ecija, Pampanga and Bulacan.

Three ponds in the estate host 120 species of birds—68 of them from various parts of the world—that escape winter, and breed and feed there from September to February.

Water level check

Pelayo on Monday instructed to park that the pond, about 4 hectares in size, was entirely drained.

Prior to the order enriching the inner edges of the pond has been maintained at 1 meter to five feet high, a depth by the boys to set fishing chowed.

Pelayo said farmers build their canals like way because birds are used to cultivate rice on dry months and grow fish on marshes in the Candaba Swamp is flooded.

"We took out the bulk of the water because we are rehabilitating the pond at this time when only a few migratory birds are around. We're planting trees of the bakawan (a mangrove) to attract breeders. These will help the birds get rest from the heat [up] of the wind," he said.

Conservation efforts

But Jenson, who also heads the scientific committee of the Wild Bird Club of the Philippines, urged more conservation efforts because the pond has become a bird sanctuary.

Pelayo said Mr. family had given priority to conservation efforts since 2002. The town government does not provide direct support although the local council has declared it a sanctuary through a resolution in 2004.

Candaba instead used a P1-million grant from the German government to put up an information center and bamboo

DRAIN POND that is partly drained and inverse, being dried up by heat, farmers like these take in nearby muddy flats to dig catfish for food.

birds around the wet ponds, he said.

Except for support in the annual Asian Waterbird Census, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources has yet to assign an ornithologist or any other technical staff in the area.

Signs of things unusual are seen on the site.

For instance, some birds like the gray heron, black winged stilt, egret and spotted duck, have constricted when they usually leave in February, said Leny Mamaio, the town administrator.

The heat goose, found in Europe, was first seen here in March.

Drought

Pyonyee Mangalabasan said local farmers that with a drought that is considered worse than the one that struck them 35 years ago.

On Monday Mangalabasan and his farm workers ushered water from a stream, tunneling ring this to another stream serve. Mosquitoes down in irrigate his 1.1 ha rice land.

Mangalabasan said he learned from his relatives in Nilo Cantoria and Cabalikan that they drain water from Bulusan basin a few weeks before the harvest in February to ensure their crops from the dry spell.

Pelayo denied this, saying the pond was drained two weeks ago and not involuntary.

He amid concerns arising from the draining, Manalo urged conservation groups to help the town government manage the ecosystem to strike a balance between the needs of farmers and the birds.

NPA rebels hold hostage mayoral bet in Davao Or.

By Feliman Lim
Inquirer Mindanao

DALIM CITY—THE MILITARY has been put on alert as negotiations continue for the release of a mayoral candidate and a village official being held by communist rebels in Lupon town in Davao Oriental.

Arlene "Bae" Quiñones and Barangay Cabuaya are still at the hands of their New People's Army (NPA) captors more than a day after they were seized down at gunpoint in Barangay Calapagan, Col. Romeo Galido, 10th Infantry Brigade commander, said on Monday.

Quiñones, the former mayor of Lupon, and Bulos, a barangay councilor of Mampay and seven other supporters were on a campaign sortie in the village, Galido said.

Three men wearing military uniforms and believed to be members of the NPA's Front 10 Sentro de Gravidad under a certain Ilenjie seized the victims at 3 p.m., Capt. Emmanuel Garcia, 10th Infantry Division spokesperson, said in a statement.

They released seven of the hostages three hours later but kept the candidate and the village official, Garcia said.

"We will launch an operation to locate and rescue the victims if negotiations break down," Galido told the Inquirer in a mobile phone interview local officials are now talking to the rebels to release the remaining two, he added.

The military statement tagged Compostela Valley Gov. Arturo Uy as one of the negotiators, but the official denied this.

"It's only now that I heard about her [Quiñones' abduction and that's out of my priorities. I don't know about that supposed negotiations," Uy told the Inquirer by phone.

Galido refused to name the supposed negotiator, saying this might compromise the person.

"We received reports Quiñones was being held by the rebels purportedly for her alleged military links. The NPA says he alleged affiliation to the movement. But we suspect it could be because of the PDC (person to campaign) ban," Galido said.

The insurgents reportedly pursued the same modus operandi to pay the P20 "revolutionary taxes" they said to be under their influence.

"We are on a defensive mode as talks for the hostages' safe release continue. But we are ready and en-raid when the need arises," Galido said.

Satur assails demolition of town market

By Mar S. Arguelles
Inquirer Southern Luzon

SAN PEDRO, LAGUNA—Senatorial candidate Juan Ocampo denounced the violent demolition of a public market in Cavinti, Batangas, and hit back at a reported "black propaganda" against his campaign.

Ocampo, who is running as a guest in the Nacionalista Party (NP) ticket, said he had just been in Cavinti for a campaign sortie two days before the predawn demolition on Thursday that resulted in the death of a security guard and injuries to 10 others.

Reports have circulated that all those who joined Ocampo's earlier proclamation rally were commissioners.

"These propaganda against the progressive party have been going around since we first joined the elections in 2001 and had been used as basis for [our] disqualification. But every so, it has been proven ineffective as all the petitions for disqualification were dismissed. This has to stop," Ocampo said in a phone interview on Friday.

Ocampo, a former political detainee, is a representative of the Bayan Muna party-list group, while Liza Maza represented the party-list group in Malacañang as Congress seat is also an NP senatorial guest candidate.

Ocampo said the demolition was illegal after it pushed through even without a court order.

Boy Cuevas, vice president of the Sociedad ng Maninindia ng Cuevas, said the demolition team "came like thieves" at around 2 a.m. and barricaded the market stalls.

Cuevas denied that the vendors staged the attack and vote to apprehend for the death of Bernadito de Castro of Mital Corp.

"There were around 100 of them (demolition team) and just a very few of us. They burned all the store entries and the windows remained. They destroyed our stalls from four earth-shes," he said.

Around 300 vendors had contested the privatization of the public market, Cuevas said.

Marlene Cinco, Inquirer Southern Luzon

2 Albay political clans on collision course

By Mar S. Arguelles
Inquirer Southern Luzon

LEGAZPI CITY—AN ELECTORAL contest involving two political clans is brewing in the third district of Albay following the filing of a disqualification case against former Gov. Fernando V. Gonzalez, who is running for a congressional seat under the Liberal Party (LP).

Steve Bichara, a candidate for the city's mayoral post under the Nacionalista Party (NP), filed the petition on Thursday before the Comelec (Comelec) to disqualify Gonzalez for not being a natural-born citizen.

He said Gonzalez's father, Francisco, was not a Filipino citizen but a Spanish citizen and was married to Paula Velluja, a Filipina.

"I am a two-blooded Filipino and Bicolano and I have documents to prove this," Gonzalez said in an interview. He said the case was allegedly filed was political harassment and a desperate move by his rival to confuse his supporters and constituents.

Gonzalez said "If indeed their accusations have basis, they should have filed the case last December when I filed my candidacy. Why just now? It's pure and simple dirty tactics, a black propaganda to brainwash my political image."

Bichara, a brother of Albay Rep. Al Francis C. Bichara (second district), an NP stalwart, also filed at the Comelec a certificate of disqualification of Gonzalez's candidacy.

A former city vice mayor, Bichara is challenging Mayor Linda Gonzalez, who is seeking her third and last term.

Bichara is known to be politically aligned with incumbent Rep. Rosa Lisa Grace Bichara (third district) of the Nationalist People's Coalition, who is seeking his second term.

A close three-cornered fight has emerged in the third district with Gonzalez challenging Lim and Vice Gov. Grande Joel.

For decades, the Gonzalez and Bichara clans have been engaged in an intense political battle to control Lupo and the seems to the third district, which has over 400,000 voters.

The district has produced several governors, including the incumbent, Joey Salceda, of Bicolano town.

CAMPAIGN FUNDS

Civil society group sells cookies for bets

NAGA CITY—(UPDATED) Oatmeal cookies may win the election for two embattled governors, according to a civil society group.

Fearing that Pampanga Gov. Ed Panlilio and Isabela Gov. Mr. Grace Padaca would lose due to lack of resources, Kaya Natin! (Be Cool) has called for donations to their campaigns. Kit'nen, as well as those of 14 other "empowering, reformist and effective" candidates.

Kaya Natin!, a multi-sectoral group seeking "genuine change and ethical leadership in the Philippines" is campaigning against for donations for food and drinks, election posters, signature logo, wallets and watches.

Kaya Natin! is also supporting Ishmio Bismpe, the Liberal Party's congressional candidate in the second district of Pampanga.

Against Press-desk Mesapelgal-dowaya, executive secretary Antonio Nerves Arroyo, TG Cadapan and Rick Lacsina.

Regional candidates Sonia Lorenzo of San Isidro, Nueva Vizcaya; Gloria Congco of Cabanatuan, Nueva Ecija; Jun Velasco of Tagaytay, Bacoor Sen; Florante Cordero of Sta. Fe, Nueva Vizcaya; Maricris Salerno of San Jose City in Nueva Ecija. Also mayoral candidates Sidonio Sig of Binalay, Negros Oriental; and Boler Bastol for councilor of Quezon City. Jamaa Cabildo Indaw, Inquirer Southern Luzon

Keeper of Mount Manabu

By Marinar Cinco
Inquirer Southern Luzon

IN A HARD-HOLD HUT MIDway the two-kilometer trek to Mount Manabu in Santa Teresa in Tanauan, one man takes solace to cups of "barako" coffee and endless chat with strangers, his summers not keeping him company.

Nardy called "Tatay Perying," Ciprian Miranda, 68, keeps birds here floating as incinerated pit stop. "I do not want to get paid for this. I'm just happy doing it," he said in Filipino.

A farmer all his life, the man has been staying there for over 10 years, accompanied by an old radio, a guitar, a dozen fighting cocks, chickens and cows. He grows coffee, vegetables and fruits.

That he lost an eye in a brawl in Manila was one reason he chose to stay here. Another was his being unmarried for a friend of his, he said. He considers everyone their family's three-hectare upland property.

Every day, he brews the famous barako coffee slowly with firewood as fuel. To accommodate more visitors, he built another hut beside his home. In gratitude, the visitors leave food or leftovers.

Mountaineers have made it a point to stop by the hut. "Maybe it just got passed for from one person to another. I've met about 80,000 people overthe-last-year and I could only recognize very few by their faces."

Tatay Perying said some celebrities had come, naming actor Jorge Estregan and mountaineer Sonia Gamboa and he has been to "Kamigawa, mountain in Japan."

Mostly it's hiking students in Lipa City" he said. But that I only know a little English. I answered only when I understand them, but if I didn't, I just kept silent."

Tatay Perying has assumed the responsibility of preserving the mountain by collecting garbage at the campsite. "We would know if they were true mountaineers or just plain thrill seekers. Mountaineers would never leave trails. They are also not very noisy in the campsite," he said. Pesticide bans, he could not find in stores at the peak.

Although he said he had not yet heard of any accident in the mountain, he took his initiative of tying up ropes and placing markers along steep portions of the trail.

A lifer in solitude who not hear Tatay Perying would declare his. He has found company in the mountain and in regular visitors.

OVER cups of coffee with Tatay Perying.

Smartmatic: Don't expect total efficiency

From page A1

highlighting the cold and damp weather in Hong Kong that has normally decommissioned machines at control center optical scan (PCOS) machines on the second day of the monthlong overseas absentee voting.

He said people's expectations in the conduct of the country's first nationwide automated elections on May 10 should be tempered.

Flores said he expected 6.3 to 6.5 percent of the PCOS machines or nearly 400 of the 52,200 counting machines to be used in the electronic balloting, to be replaced on Election Day and that this was "more or less the standard."

He said this was the reason the Smartmatic-TIM, the joint venture partner of the Commission on Elections (Comelec), had ordered 6,000 spare machines, which constituted 8 percent of the total. The remaining machines would be used in 78,000 precincts.

"Machines will break on Election Day, and machines will have to go to contingency procedures and there will be replacements, and there will be cases were no replacements will be available and the BEI (Board of Election Inspectors) will have to consolidate votes in one machine," Flores said.

"It's very important that we say these things to the public and we manage the expectations of people. If you're planning on getting your headlines from machines broken, you're going to run out of space on your front page on Election Day."

According to Flores, hiccups could either be a result of human failure or operational failure if the paper is inserted incorrectly or some connections are not plugged in.

"Sometimes you're going to be the unlucky voter that needs to wait one hour for the replacement machine to arrive. But that doesn't mean the system is not working and that's not a glitch. As long as you're expecting it to happen, you can call it a glitch. And it cannot occupy the headline," he said.

System is working

Flores also said he was very confident of the backup system in place that had worked in other countries.

"I think the good news is the system is working and the system will work on May 10, but contingencies will happen and the important thing is the Comelec is prepared, Smartmatic is prepared, political parties are getting prepared," he said.

There are general instructions to the BEIs to case machines break, and there is a call center that would put them in touch with technicians, Flores said.

"There can be no failure of election if people are voting. 2 ballots are there and people are voting and those votes can be counted then can be as fast as," he said.

Election Commissioner Gregorio Larrazabal also said at the press conference that the Comelec would apply the lessons learned from the Hong Kong balloting. This include the prompt storage of the ballots, some of which were not read by the machines after they were stored in the compressed memory.

"It was good that it happened. It showed us scenarios that could happen in the Philippines. Here in Hong Kong, steps are taken, meaning there is no more moisture in the room," he said.

Comelec spokesperson James Jimenez said the election paraphernalia would already be at each polling precinct seven days before the elections. This means that the materials would leave each warehouse on the day of the balloting.

HK a good test

Executive Secretary Leandro Mendoza yesterday said that the glitches in Hong Kong had given the Comelec the chance to test the machines to make sure that they are "100 percent efficient" for the "mind-bigger exercise" on May 10.

"It's a good test actually, good experience," Mendoza told reporters shortly after sending off President Macapagal-Arroyo, who left for Washington.

"We've learned that the whole point here is to take the one-hour-only success and continue to work for success, instead of alarming about failure," he added.

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'Please reveal source'

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"We are giving them the authority to please reveal the source. Release the name," Bautista said.

"If it came from SC we are giving them authority to do so ... again we are welcoming the challenge for them to reveal the source," he added.

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"Of course, we are very grateful to him for that, and that's something we recognize," Sobrepeña said.

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"[At] the end of the day, we had to review the case on its merits," Sobrepeña said. "We realized it is not in the merits and the qualities of the case. Of course, we recognize that, because a lot of what Ateneo has achieved has been because of his leadership. It's not just the donations. He's really a person who has pushed us to levels of excellence."

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PORT TURNOVER Manuel Pangilinan (center) and Michael Reeves, CEO, Manila North Harbour Port Inc., receive the symbolic key from Philippine Port Authority General Manager Oscar Serilla (left) during Monday's turnover of Manila North Harbor management. [See story on Page A9]

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Editor Teddyvic S. Melendrez
Assistant Editor Francis T.J. Ortuoste

SPORTS

Mickelson's mighty touch nails Masters

PHIL Mickelson celebrates the last-hole birdie and his three-shot victory—his third—at the Masters at Augusta National in Georgia. AP

AUGUSTA, GEORGIA—PHIL MICKELSON won his third Masters title, shooting a 5-under 67 Sunday to pull away for a three-stroke win over England's Lee Westwood.

Tom Watson dies dipping into a green jacket for Mickelson was seeing his wife waiting for him behind the 18th green at Augusta National with tears streaming down her face.

Amy Mickelson had not been at a golf tournament since being diagnosed with breast cancer 11 months ago and her husband had not looked the same since.

He shared a long embrace with his wife before the 18th green, and as he walked to the scoring trailer to sign for the lowest score at Augusta in nine years, a single tear trickled down his cheek to his lip.

"So, the last year, we've been through a lot and it's been rough," said Mickelson, who rightly pumped his fist when it ended. "And to feel this kind of exhilaration is incredible."

Mickelson made two remarkable par saves from the trees around control with a 15-foot birdie putt in the heart of Amen Corner and then made a great play with a 6-iron off the pine straw and over Rae's Creek on the par-5 13th to set up a birdie.

There was simply no denying Mickelson.

His final birdie only was required on the scorecard, 16-under 272, the lowest by a Masters champion since Tiger Woods in 2001. Mickelson had this won as he walked up the 18th fairway to a massive ovation.

He raised both arms when the putt fell, had a long embrace with caddie Jim "Bones" Mackay, then settled into his wife's arms.

Standing behind them was Mary Mickelson, his mother, who was diagnosed with breast cancer in July.

SWEET 71-0ES Mickelson receives the Green Jacket from 2009 champion Angel Cabrera. AFP

He ended a Masters riddle any other.

It began with Tiger Woods emerging from a humiliating sex scandal, which brought a rebuke from Masters chair Billy Payne and secrecy of his behavior throughout the week.

His wife was not at the Masters for the first time, although Woods performed as though his life outside bunker never happened. He broke par all four rounds, closed with a 69 and tied for fourth with IG Chol, five behind.

For Westwood, this was his best chance at winning a major, but he failed to make putts.

"Phil, being the champion, he hit some great shots coming down the stretch," said Westwood, who shared with a 71.

Anthony Kim closed with a two-under-par 68 and finished alone in third at 278.

Mickelson became the eighth player with at least three Masters titles, and it was the fourth major of his career.

Woods offer a less signature moments with some poor putting, some more shrinking than a three-putt from 6 feet on the 14th hole.

"I finished fourth. It's not what I wanted," a dour Woods said in a one interview with CBS Sports analyst Peter Kostis. "As the week went on, I kept hitting the ball worse."

Right when it looked like it might slip away from him, Mickelson came through with two par saves from the trees on No. 9 and No. 10, then pulled away with a birdie on the 12th.

Woods teased with contention by making two eagles in one round for the second time this week. Most of the day, however, he was all wrong too many shots both to stay in range.

He was seven shots behind walking down the seventh fairway, then bunkered for eagle to begin an eagle-birdie-birdie run that put him within 2 shots. Woods hit a tee from a small fissure to the right of the 11th fairway, and just when it looked as though he would make an escape, he missed a 5-foot par putt. AP

Final-round scores

Prized college finds show wares in Filoil-Flying V hoops

By Jasmine W. Payo

THE COLLEGIATE BASKETBALL PRESSmen kicked off with several teams unveiling their prized recruits over the weekend.

Rookie completed half of La Salle's roster while reigning UAAP champion Ateneo threw all 12 people of Team B players aside from tapping two second-generation cagers.

Ian Seda also paraded Filipino-Australian twins and two former SF Youth members at the start of the FILOI-Flying V Taculao Pre-Fire Pre-Season International Cup last Saturday.

"We still have a young team, but the rookies provide us some with energy and we're also quicker this year," said new La Salle coach Gilbert Demaisip, who took over from elder brother and outshined coach Franco last December.

The Green Archers tapped homegrown players Nico Elorde, the grandson of hoops great Gabriel "Flash" Elorde, Jeigo dela Paz and Aiki Herrera from De La Salle Zobel and Martin Reyes from La Salle Greenhills.

Paper Hayden, a 6-foot-5 former SF Youth stalwart and NCAA juniors standouts Jerdan Tampus and Ahmed Wamora also joined the fortress, who missed the UAAP Final Four for the first time last season.

Jason Ferreras, a forward from John Marshall High in Los Angeles, and 6-6 Cagayan de Oro standout JP Erram finally suited up for the Blue Eagles after toiling in Team B.

"The transition has been a bit easier for those two guys," said veteran coach Norman Black. "Ferreras was doing his residency for two years, so he knows the system well."

Arthur dela Cruz, the 6-foot-2 son of former topflight defender-player Art dela Cruz, will also join the Eagles in a week after his one-week course with the Ilan Seda Red Cobs.

2 Palaro champs strike gold anew with aplomb

By Marc Anthony Reyes

SAN JOSE, TARLAC—STEPHANIE STEPHanie Cimatu and John Albert Manlisa struck more in their favorite events yesterday had on meds and field notices in the Palarong Pambansa took a midday break to spare the athletes from the strength-sapping summer heat here.

The 15-year-old Cimatu of Iloilo, who has already secured a slot in the coming Youth Olympic Games in Singapore, became the first champion of this year's Palaro by grabbing a second straight gold medal in girls' secondary javelin throw.

Manlisa, 17, also repeated as boys' secondary shot put winner for Cotabato with a personal best of 13.58 meters on his fifth and last throw in the Tarlac Recreational Park grounds here.

Unrival Visayas foes Cimatulo then topped the boys' secondary long jump before officials declared a three-and-a-half hour break lasting until 2 p.m.

A prestige of five-time Southeast Asian Games javelin champion Orlinda Lavendia, the 4-foot-11 Cimatu won with a throw of 36.90 meters.

Ilocos Region's Jerard May Cocoldenia was second with 34.11m while Cordillera Administrative Region's Gemma Landicao was third with 33.89m.

Joshua Barredo of Western Visayas led with his 16.77m throw and Marcus, from General Santos City, pulled off his golden feat on his last try, surpassing his winning mark of 16.09m last year in Tacloban.

Juliet John Alnas of West Visayas was third in 16.56m.

Cimatulo's win with a jump of 4.63m although he said he could have done better if not for the absence of the wrapped jumping board.

Gerald Layosan of West Visayas topped Dominguez Antigo of Central Luzon for the silver, 16.64 meters.

Cimatulo, who had to quit school the last three years to work, was confident of bagging another gold in the triple jump, one of three final events on last Sunday afternoon.

The National Capital Region and Western Visayas drew first blood in secondary basketball by beating Central Luzon, 75-66, and Cotabato, 86-63.

The West Visayans also topped Ilocos in secondary football, 5-4.

Cagayan Valley edged Eastern Visayas, 3-2, while Calabarzon routed Northern Mindanao, 13-0, in secondary football.

NCR also scored in elementary baseball with an 11-6 win at Bonifacio Region of Bhadlos Mindanao while Cagayan Valley dumped Eastern Visayas, 9-1.

REGION I's Jean Cocoldenia cashes in the secondary boys' long jump gold medal as she "flies" Rachelmarie Pineda. AFP

NCAA sticks to rule on pro-bound cagers

By Cedell P. Tugas

THE NATIONAL COLLEGIATE Athletic Association will continue to allow its players to join the Philippine Basketball Association's rookie draft as long as they behave, league officials of their intention to turn professional.

Inis Sebastian, official Scout Gool, the management committee chair for the new season, said a proposal to change this rule was not supported by the majority of the college basketball league, which will have nine teams for its 86th season.

The proposal tabled in January, but the Manzons decided to pick it during its workshop last month in Bamboo City Guevarra.

The NCAA basketball season begins June 26 with defending champion and host San Sebastian hosting Lyceum and Arse Ruiz U clashing with last year's losing finalist, San Beda.

San Beda runner Fr. Mon de Jesus said Jason Marc Lamsen yesterday turned over the hosting rites to San Sebastian president Fr. Anthony Murillo and Guia.

"It was a successful season and it will be a big challenge for us to duplicate, if not surpass, it," said Murillo.

The league accepted as new members Arellano University and Emilio Aguinaldo College this season to jack up the number of teams to nine.

But Murillo said the league is still open to accepting another school before the season ends.

Eaglets nip Greenies as FCBL starts

ATENEO GOT THE better of arch rival La Salle Greenhills, 77-66, to jumpstart its bid in the Bert Foronda Filipino Cadaver Basketball League (FCBL) Cup on Saturday at the BulldDancer gym in Quezon City.

The Eaglets were holding a 69-67 lead when the Greenies missed a potential game-tying basket. Ateneo Bernard then sealed a match jumper with 32 ticks left, before Gold converted the final basket.

Pennanced scored a game-high 18 points to bag the Foronda Best Player of the Game award while Hidir Bowens added 16 points and Lambert Tenorio had 10 for Ateneo.

Thomas Torres paced UGOS with 20 points while Michael Hutt chipped in 13 in the season high school eagelet opposed by losses.

Other opening-day winners were Jose Rizal University which pulled off a 72-68 squeaker over Ateneo and Mapua which dealt Cainag Kat Ilark College an 86-70 beating. Steve Silva, Contributor

Make way for Super Tri Kids: Paguia, Farid rule

ELBERT GENE PAGUIA AND AIRA FARHANA Farid topped the boys' and girls' divisions of the 2010 Super Tri Kids Multisports Festival Sunday at the Subic Subbay in Mantiloque.

Paguia and Farid dominated the 13-15 age group of the main bike-run event while Edward Macaraeg and Stephanie Agnes Manalo ruled the same age group in the swim-run aquathlon competition.

"The contest shows the growth of triathlon in the country," said Triathlon Association of the Philippines president Tom Carrasco Jr.

Lance Vincent Plaza and Samantha Ostrea Tee (11-12) claimed aquathlon honors along with John Miguel Ramos and Kalyssa Marie Lozano (9-10). Julius Ralph Dolar and Ingrid Jamaine Ng (7-8). Juliana Bianca Almadrone Lyndi Ivanhoe and Davide Aaron and Lynn Shin Ong (under).

Four-year-old Reina Ellis also received a citation as the youngest participant in the event.

Other triathlon age group winners: Carmi Sofaer Ordoveza and Jeremy Ong (13-15); Jan Carlo Campbell Sarmiento and Jessica Mae Ong (16-17); Jan Carlo Campbell Sarmiento and Jessica Mae Ong (18-24); Jayden Yu and Jessica Mae Ong (25-29); Jayden Yu and Jeremiah Ong (30-34); Jayden Yu and Jeremiah Ong (35-39); Jayden Yu and Jeremiah Ong (40-44); Jayden Yu and Jeremiah Ong (45-49); Jayden Yu and Jeremiah Ong (50-54); Jayden Yu and Jeremiah Ong

Berto also wants Pacquiao

By Ray Lunova

INCLUDE HATIAN ANDRE BERTO TO THE list of Manny Pacquiao's probable opponents.

After an eight-round mugging of Puerto Rican Carlos Quintana Saturday night in Florida, Berto and his promoter Lou Dibella joined the chorus for a showdown with Pacquiao.

"Now we want Manny Pacquiao," Dibella told Los Boxers of Digital Journal. "Whenever Manny wants to fight us, we are ready."

Pacquiao is busy campaigning for a congressional seat in Sarangani province and does not intend to fight until November.

With the impressive victory, the 26-year-old Berto, who was supposed to fight Shane Mosley last Jan. 30 until he withdrew after a massive killer quake struck Haiti on Jan. 25, retained his World Boxing Council lightweight crown and stretched his unbeaten run to 28 with 20 knockouts.

Berto believes he can offer Pacquiao a stiffer challenge than Ghanaian Joshua Clottey, whom the Filipino turned into a virtual punching bag en route to a unanimous decision win on March 13 in Arlington, Texas.

CARDONA

Cardona shines for Texters

By Cedell P. Tajon

TRADING HIS GAME UP A NOTCH, MAC Cardona steered Talk 'N Text to a pair of victories last week as the Texters evaded back-to-back setbacks in the PBA Fiesta Conference.

Cardona posted averages of 21.3 points, 3.5 rebounds, 5 assists and 2.3 steals in the Texters' 100-92 victory over Alaska and the 103-89 throttling of San Mig Coffee Mixers last night.

A fourth-down-to-last for the Accel-PBA Press Corps Player of the Week award over teammate Kerby Raymundo Champs, Emily Ann's Nino Calubaza and San Miguel Beer's Alex Cabagnot, Cardona said the hopes to sustain his strong form in the future.

Coach Chot Reyes has acknowledged that Cardona's performance usually dips after getting the reward, fourth-distinction for the season.

"I still have to improve my game, I don't want to think of that. I," added Cardona, who scored 19 points in scoring for all hands with 17 points per game.

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Smart Gilas 5 starting on the wrong foot?

Manuel B. Dapo

CLEAN LIVING

THE COUNTRY'S decked basketball fans are feeling antsy.

They have been as since October 2009, when Smart Gilas coach Siglo Furonon was signed by the Basketball Association Philippines to a lucrative three-year contract to prepare the Smart Gilas Pilipinas team for international competition.

Despite Furonon's impressive credentials—he coached host's basketball team at 12th place in the 2008 Beijing Olympics—the Serbian has so far failed to deliver good results.

"The country allotted the Troopers could have been spent more wisely by hiring at least two tall and fast naturalized players who could shoot from the three-point zone," they said.

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Why did they say that?

They cited the first shot, even with coach Furonon at the helm, Smart Gilas recently lost five of its six games including twice to Serbia, Furonon's own turf.

Smart Gilas suffered its last loss to Serbian Basketball League Division 1 ballclub Mega Vizura, 76-73.

"We lost to Mega Vizura due to poor outside shooting," explained Smart Gilas team captain Chris Tiu, a former top player from Ateneo.

Tiu, plus the last four the three and many Filipino players played against very tall and lively opponents.

Meanwhile, another PBA team, Smart Gilas, playing all-Filipinos, bagged their first ever medal—a bronze—by outclassing 14 Asian of Syria, 107-98, in the 25th Dubai International Basketball Tournament.

In the championship match, host's Mahram mauled Lebanese's Al Riyadi, 85-65, to retain the crown.

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Still, many Filipino fans were unconvinced, saying that foreign coaches like Furonon and local basketball leaders need not feed people with false hopes.

"The patience is already wearing thin," they complained.

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The Philippines did took part in Olympic basketball in Munich in 1972, 36 years after winning the road title in Lakas in 1936.

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MR. BEST, many-time Philippine Sportswriters Association awardee for his pioneering basketball training program, the fourth, gear to San Pablo City on May 2 to 8.

Organized by BJ Coville and coach Mario Diaz, the week-long session is open to boys and girls 8 years and older at the Laguna State Polytechnic University at San Pablo. The clinic will cover Levels 1, 2 and 3.

BEST, the popular youth-oriented basketball nationwide and offshoots program, was founded by former University of the Philippines varsity player and top coach Coach Nic Jorge in the 1970s. Its graduates included top PBA players such as Benjie Paras, Jerry Codiñera, Bonnie Magnuson and Paolo Mendoza.

Coville and Jorge can be reached at 09.15-6003819 and 0927-5995818, respectively.

* * *

Better late than never. Sending the call of the differently abled athletes in these athletes with disability, the Philippine Sports Commission recently created P750,000 for the medal winners of the 5th invitation of Southeast Asian Games (Asean) Para Games held last year in Kuala Lumpur.

PSC chair Harry Angping said the Philippine contingent netted home with 24 gold, 24 silver and 26 bronze medals from the biennial meet dominated by athletes from Thailand.

The Philippine delegation was headed by Kenny Pil, commissioner while Rosendo, chief of the Philippine Sports Association for the differently abled athletes (Philsaka).

KOSSAN Pajarillo (right) of Kiamfort Gentlemen's Inn attempts to get past the defense of Ateneo's Pido Quinquero Sunday's game. ALEXANDRA DIAZ

SHAKEY'S V-LEAGUE

AdU, Lyceum get into fray

By Cedell P. Tajon

ADAMSON BEGINS ITS QUEST TO REgain the crown it won two years ago when the Lady Falcons collide with the Sportscity Lady Pirates today in the Shakey's V-League Season 7 first conference at the FEUD Flying V Arena in San Juan.

The Lady Falcons are expected to encounter tough sailing against the Lady Pirates in the 2 p.m. showdown with Lyceum parading a crack Thai import in Tip Sawaeng, a veteran of the Asian Youth Championship and the World Youth Championship.

Clashing in the second game at 4 p.m. is defending Southwestern University of Cebu and perennial contender San Sebastian.

Defending champion University of Santo Tomas and Ateneo share the early lead after posting straight-set victories over the Eastern Li-

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Former champs face tough Le Tour challenge

By Jane Navarro

A SCRAPPY CAST OF FORMER TOUR CHAMPIONS will try to prove their worth against foreign riders in the Le Tour de Filipinas (Tour of the Philippines) which kicks off this Saturday in Tagaytay City.

Two-time winners Mercedes Cespedilla, Jenyl Quintela, Jinky Barredo and Victor Espiritu will harness the DP challenge in the four-day multistage race featuring seven foreign teams.

Bulgaria Pinoy 2009 and Tour of Luzon winner Mark John Geronaya also hopes to keep his crown in the Le Tour, which is part of the Asia Tour calendar of the Union Cycliste Internationale.

About P1 million in cash is at stake with the stage winners taking home at least P84,000. There are also special rewards for the King of the Mountain and Sprint King.

DAVAÑILLA

QUINTET

ESPIRITU

Quintela will skipper the Air21 squad, Barredo will head Extra Joss, Espiritu will lead 7-Eleven and Davañilla will be Bataan's ones-aspirin in the event organized by the Dynamic Outsource Solutions Inc., a group owned by Air21 chair and former PhilCycling head Hen Lim.

Cespedilla will spearhead Team while Geronaya will be the assistant skipper of Rider Fortress in Team Pilipinas (Mateng Tagaytay), which will participate under the auspices of the PhilCycling, headed by Tagaytay City Mayor Abraham "Bambol" Tolentino.

Irish Moreseda will carry the fight for 2009 Pulpuk team champion American Vinyl while Bernard Lozon will lead Pure Pilsodes in the 17-team lineup.

Completing the local cast are new teams Team Gemidan, Team Tagaytay by Margarito Pinlac (Gemma Winer Sports Complex) and Henry Sambayong (Lagna del Rey).

Japan's Shimano team will have Mitsi Suzuki as team captain. It links Kenichi Kobayashi and Sumo Leopard of Mongolia, South Africa's DCM will join its hopes on Matthias Jeremy while Jeff Ashard will skipper host's Mindanao Rides Bombers.

Other foreign teams competing are Singapore's OCBC and Hong Kong's GN Sportswear-Colossi. Giant Asia Racing Team may also be in the line.

Olympic quest hinges on a sure standard

BARE EYE

Ricardo Trinidad

ONE OF THREE TOURNEYS MADE AT the close of the Chino Open boxing championships last week can, hopefully, pave the country's desperate quest for its first Olympic gold medal.

The statements came from three AP three coaches.

Observer Bobby Vargas, president of the Amateur Boxing Association of the Philippines (Abap).

"I am glad I wrestled, it gave me some edge to outbeat to learn and learn to win."

Jose Ed Pineda, Abap executive director. "We could learn from losers as from our own what adjustments are needed."

* * *

Notes: Ej Zhenya, a Chinese sports journalist: "In the rivalry with the Philippines, the world's fastest growing force is the ring and the homeland of the world's undisputed pound-for-pound champion Manny Pacquiao, China boxing bloggin Ano thinking brought his fellow flyweight Roy Saladay back in school in the quarter-finals of the 3-time Asba event in Guangzhou."

The Philippines now seven boxers in the Chino tournament.

Three Filipino fighters—light flyweight Dennis Flores, bantamweight Antonio Peracio Pedroza and welterweight Mitchido Lopez—managed to advance to the semifinals where they suffered reverse losses.

* * *

Seeming disappointed if not totally frightened, director Pineda claimed Vasan there lessons were nothing to worry to."

The topnotch men's featherweight Cheaty Ramos, winner of the gold medal in the Laos Southeast Asian Games, got waylaid in the second round of the tournament.

But what should surely bring cheer to the fans of the Abap was the decision suffered by Saladay.

In a top hope in the Abap stable, Saladay, according to reports 12 Chinese, prepared an unbelievably image of fit as a boxing country in the all-wrestling host to knockdowning.

* * *

The sharp-eyed Chinese journalists was not kind in say it, but Saladay's shallow visual speaks a shortfall for the program launched by the new Abap leadership in its quest for an Olympic gold medal.

In this note to the Abap and its topnotch boxers, the story visual is a call to "go ahead but the Olympic campaign, where they extend aging excesses in the ring.

No, but by non-close Olympian Percy Tabanao and Biska Amid gold medalist Joan Tipon.

The Abap is out to register new accounts.

* * *

But what carefully got exposed in the Chino Open boxing championship was the absence of a suitable model by a successful campaign.

"They may be doing everything, they may be working very, very hard, spending furnaces, but are they following the proper training program?" asked Interpersonnan Body Salud, founding secretary-general of the World Boxing Council.

Without, see they going all out to come up with a true standard?

Winner Ej Zhenya of Saladay's effort: "Trailing by four points, Saladay started off cowing in the second round. But Saladay recovered and gave his opponent a run over again by the resourceful Chinese."

Special report.

Co-winners collide again in NCA derby

FOUR SISTERS THAT HAS wiped co-champions in the National Cockers Alliance (NCA) derby last week get ready today at the Trustees Sports Arena in Pasig.

The Phoenix entry of Mario Villanueva, PBF Consultores of Bonifacio Gonzales, YB Octagon of Allen and Tony Bautista and ITB Octagon and the Lucky Sirna IK Jimmy Silay 5 group will clash with the teams of Gerry Ramos, Claudio Arquiza and the Purdy group of Fabian Uy and Efren Antonio.

Last week's co-champions were RTB Firefly, Firefly 12, SHAR, H.D. Piano Pioneer Builders, Bobo Collection, Goldquest Enterprises, Erwin Cabrera, Riverside, Jennifer Bit, Sconces, Mitzi, Global shadow Zabang Tambade 2002 and Nothing Belong.

The NCA derby is sponsored by Sangguniang Kabataan.

Best fighting cocks: Purdy (red) vs. Cavite Sarmiento, Don Carlos, Cebu de Guzman, Lic. Bob Ross, Antipolo, Efren Reyes, San Pablo, Andy Angeles, Al Magsaysay, Poly Baptista, New Manila, Ilan Bagtikan, Ernie Bonifacio, Bob Sandoval, Armand Santos, Manny Santos, the Cuna and Batangas group, Art Salvador, Arnel Ch. Mesa, Villamor, Rebel Allan, the Bonifacio and Rizal brothers, and Carlos Yulo.

Tiu seeks drag's Pro class lead

HE'LL TAKE HOMEBOUND CHAMPION JONATHAN Tiu game for the Pro-class lead in the fourth leg of the 2010 Magnolia Powerpuncher National Drag Racing Championship Series this Saturday at the Batangas Racing Circuit.

Tiu topped both the previous Pro class and Quick 8 divisions last month but still failed to wrest the lead from teammate Anthony Go.

Despite a season-top finish, Go paces the title race with 35 points, five points ahead of Tiu.

Tiu joins Quick 8 with 40 points and a confidence of pulling off a third win over a drag strip referee he called four of his six titles. The also holds the fastest BEC record of 9.960 seconds.

Jonathan Young also eyes his fourth straight Expert class win while Mervin Esguerra and Aiden Sandoval aim for back-to-back triumphs in the Sportsman and Amateur, respectively.

Tru-Flex/Wilson age-group tennis set

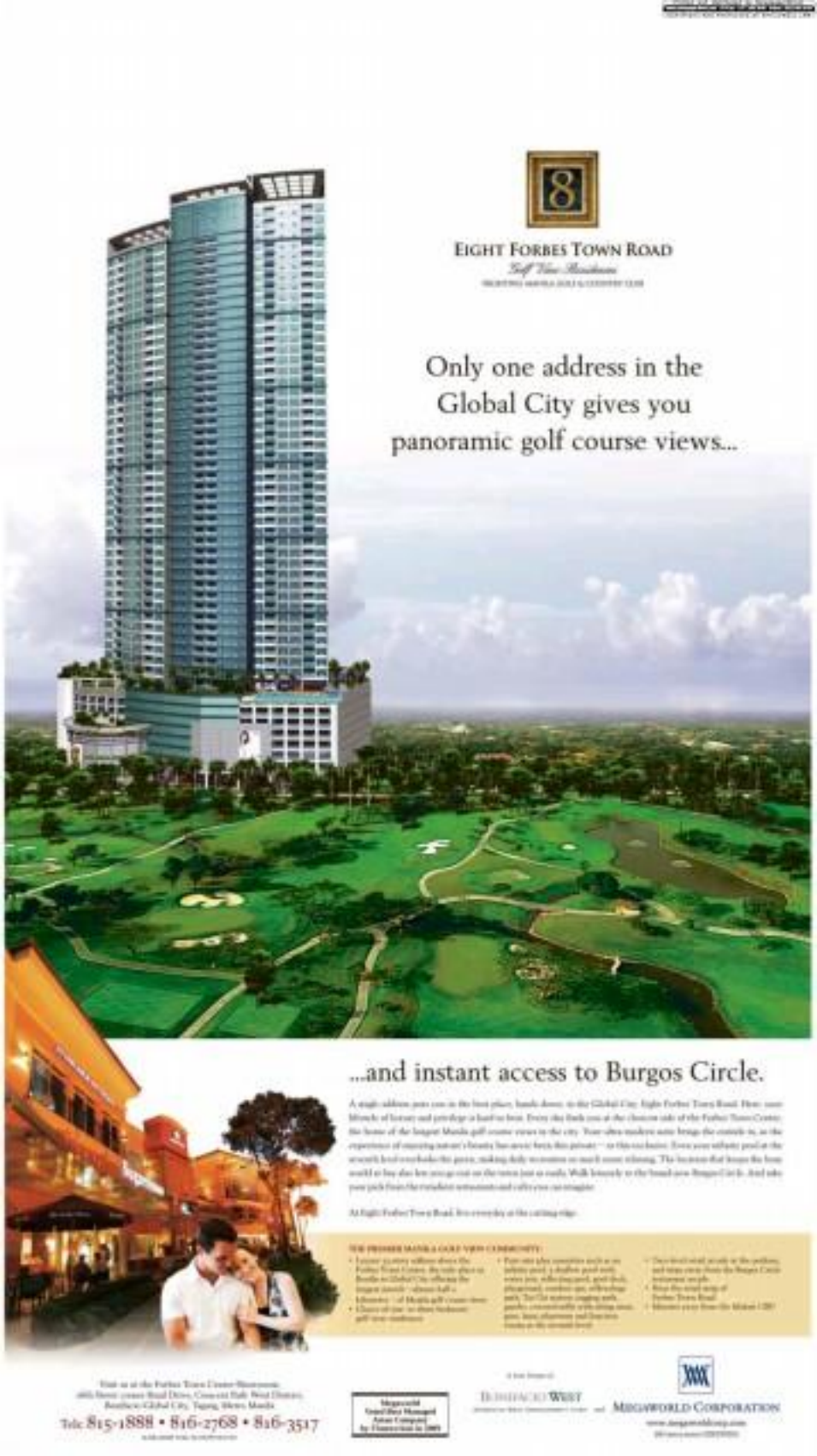
THE TRU-FLEX/WILSON NATIONAL AGE-group tennis championships get going this weekend at the Ayala Alabang courts.

The weeklong tournament that helped discover the likes of Dusit Cepper Francis Casey Alcantara and Junior ace Jenna Herrodoro will have competition for boys and girls in the 16, 14, 12, 10 and 8 levels and senior boys.

"We want to give the young players a taste of real competition and at the same time help discover potential talents who will eventually become the next national players," said Handy Villanueva of the Philippine Tennis Association.

The event, formed 11 years ago, hopes to gather all the tennis age-groupers from all over the country. It is the only tournament which provides a competitive outlet for players who are eliminated.

More, And Some Boxes



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MMDA sues QC vice mayoral bet

Three-term councilor, supporters accused of attacking clearing team

By Nikko Calleja and Jaime M. Rumbo

THE METROPOLITAN MANILA DEVELOPMENT Authority (MMDA) yesterday filed charges against a Quezon City councilor who is running for vice mayor and two of her supporters after they allegedly attacked a group of MMDA personnel who were taking down illegally posted campaign materials.

Named in the complaint for grave coercion and direct assault filed by MMDA Legal Service head Rochell Binsuli with the Quezon City Prosecutor's Office were three "Baloo" Mahaya, the running mate of Rep. Jesús Isagani, and two of her supporters who remain identified.

Based on the complaint, members of the MMDA Sidewalk Clearing Operations Group (SCOG) were taking down campaign materials posted on North Avenue near Elliptical Road at around 11 p.m. on Saturday when a white Toyota Hi-Ace van stopped beside them.

The workers said Mahaya alighted from the sport utility vehicle and shouted invectives at them while two of her supporters started shoving them away and even threatened to shoot them.

A police team, however, which was passing by the area, put a stop to the commotion.

MMDA Chair Oscar Inocencio said in a statement that his men were "nearly beaten to death" by the "arrogant and lawless guests of this equally arrogant and lawless candidate."

"They have yet to be elected but they no longer obey the law. What more if they are already in power?" Inocencio said.

He added that the posters being taken down by the MMDA workers were displayed outside commercial power areas designated by the Commission on Elections.

"We will not spare any candidate or party who will be found defying the law," Inocencio said.

According to him, he has ordered war on candidates, local officials, police and barangay personnel who will try to hamper the MMDA's campaign against illegally posted election paraphernalia in the metropolis.

Sought for comment, Mahaya said there was no basis for the case filed against her by the MMDA.

In a phone interview with the Inquirer, Mahaya confirmed the North Avenue incident on Saturday although she wondered why she was being singled out by the agency.

"I introduced myself as a councilor when I saw my supporters questioning the MMDA. I asked them why only my posters were being taken down. The MMDA workers told me that I they were just following[] orders. How why only me?" she said.

"Why are they singling me out? Hindsay naman ako. I don't think I am a violator. If any, there are many other candidates out there who should be charged first," Mahaya added.

She also said that some of the posters on display may not be hers but would have been requested by her rivals and posted outside designated poster areas.

BLATANT VIOLATION
Campaign materials of different shapes, colors and sizes adorn Judge Juan Lorna Brown in Quezon City despite a warning from the Commission on Elections that it would file disqualification cases against politicians who display their posters outside designated areas. »

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Catch the New Mazda6 as it unveils for the first time at the 2010 Manila International Auto Show on April 15-18, 2010 at the World Trade Center. Mazda will host the biggest car display at the show - highlighted by the evolution of Zoom-Zoom through a complete display of its new line-up.
mazda.com.ph

Why I write so much about an abusive NBI agent

ON TARGET
Ramon Tulfo

THE TWO GOVERNMENT EMployees who were harassed with a gun by National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) Agent Noel Boasing might as well forget about pursuing their complaint against him.

The two officials who were allegedly harassed by Boasing over a minor traffic incident were lawyer Ma. Anthonette Allones, executive director of the Career Executive Service Board (CESB), and Police Director Arturo de Jesus Lesaca.

The investigation of Director Allones' minor traffic incident went lawyer Ma. Anthonette Allones, executive director of the Career Executive Service Board (CESB), and Police Director Arturo de Jesus Lesaca.

Mustering just more than Os United States on a personal life and professional who was with him during that time? Boasing.

Mustering isn't more without Boasing by his side reportedly when the director has to spend money and by NBI station.

Now how could the NBI forpose of Boasing who is the powerful goons that have the golden eggs?

* * *

In Fur said in last Thursday's column, Boasing is abusive and I knew whereof I speak.

Many years ago, I had him suspended for one year from the NBI for slapping a woman inside a Manila mall.

Boasing was talking on his cell phone and didn't look where he was going as he bumped into the woman.

Instead of apologizing to the woman, Boasing slapped her.

The woman went to the "hamdong sto kay Tulfo" office and sought my help for redress.

Then NBI Director Federico Opinion suspended Boasing.

Boasing apparently has not learned his lesson.

* * *

Why am I devoting so much space to this column to a mere lieutenant at the NBI?

Because I see in Boasing the makings of an Antipinian on a small scale.

The Antipinians of Magsaysay days got away with can also get away with another against their social mentors because they had the backing of their boss, Jaime de Makeshifting.

And because their abuses were tolerated, the Antipinians thought they could get away with their boring innocent civilians.

Since Boasing got a taste day on the scale for striking a woman and might get away will with pushing his gun at two female government executives, he might one day shoot a man who happens to stare at his wife or girlfriend in a restaurant.

* * *

Who's this top official of the Commission on Elections (Comelec) who was seen dining with relatives of a presidential candidate at a Japanese restaurant in a five-star hotel?

What's suspicious about the meeting was that it was in one of the private function rooms of the restaurant.

Comelec officials should not be seen meeting with any partisan group in public because it might be construed as endorsing that group.

If the meeting is official then it should be held at the Comelec office.

Police investigators seek autopsy of Medel's body

By DJ Yap

INVESTIGATORS LOOKING INto the death of Philip Medel, one of the accused in the Nida Blanca murder case, will try to convince his family to subject his body to an autopsy, the top official of the Eastern Police District (EPD) said yesterday.

EPD director Chief Supt. Reynaldo Rimando said they also want to husband's and link him Medel's activities in the months before he succumbed to pneumonia in the Ilaya City General Hospital where he had been taken by jail guards.

Medel had been detained in the Ilaya City Jail since 2003 before he was taken to the hospital last week after he complained of difficulty breathing.

His doctor said he died of sepsis or blood poisoning secondary to pneumonia.

"We don't want to just rely on what the doctors said. It's important to know what the medicine, the jail guards and his doctors have to say about his death," Rimando said in an interview.

On orders of Philippine National Police chief Director General Jesus Verzosa, Rimando created a task force to investigate Medel's death and designated Senior Supt. Jessie Cardona, Ilaya police chief, as the head.

The task force is composed of Cardona, the Criminal Investigation Unit, Crime Laboratory, Office of the Crime Operations and Criminal Investigation and Detection Group, Marinaro said.

He added that the investigation was prompted by the fact that Medel was involved in a "celebrated case," and not necessarily because there were suspicions of foul play.

Marinaro said the police would coordinate with the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology in its probe.

On Nov. 19, 2003, Medel confessed to the murder of Blanca, who was bludgeoned and stabbed to death on Nov. 6, 2003 in the parking lot of Ayala Center in Greenhills, San Juan City.

Medel implicated Estrada as the mastermind but he recanted his confession a few days later, saying he had been tortured by the police and that he was innocent.

SAND ART!?
A man sprays water on a sand sculpture in Makati City to prevent it from collapsing due to the heat. The country is bracing itself for record-high temperatures due to the El Niño phenomenon.

Binay dares Mercado to undergo medical exam

By Nina Calleja

MAKATI COUNCILOR JEJOMAR Erwin "Junjun" Binay Jr. yesterday challenged his distant rival for the mayoral seat in the coming election, Vice Mayor Ernesto Mercado, to submit himself to a medical test and answer questions about his "declining health."

In a press statement, Binay said that Mercado had undergone surgery for aneurysm at Methodist Hospital, Medical Center in the United States.

Stressing that he would selflessly submit himself to a medical examination, Binay asked Mercado to follow the example of Nacionalista Party (NP) presidential candidate Manny Villar.

No reason to refuse

"If Senator Villar has offered to take a comprehensive medical examination to ascertain his fitness to be elected president, then we see no reason why his aides should refuse to do the same," he said.

Mercado is running under NP while Binay is the official candidate of the PDP-Laban.

"The people of Makati have a right to know if their candidates are both mentally and physically fit. Mercado cannot brush this issue aside," Binay said.

Binay spokesperson Lito Asturias also questioned Mercado's health condition, saying the taxpayers he suffered could be to blame for the vice mayor's erratic behavior, particularly his shifting statements on issues.

He also alleged that Mercado had cut down on his home-to-home campaign while limiting his physical activities to taking short walks in barangays.

"Those who know said an illness such as the one Mercado underwent is the fact that there has been a marked decline in his physical appearance since last month when reports of an unscheduled visit to Makati Medical Center began to circulate," Asturias said.

Black propaganda

Tonight for comment, Mercado said because claim about his health was meant to discredit him. "I will not waste my time answering these. Those are all black propaganda, a sign that the Binays feel threatened [by me]," he said in Filipino.

He admitted that he was operated on for an aneurysm in 2004 but that he has since completely recovered. "Now I walk five hours a day speak and stand on the stage for several hours during campaign rallies," Mercado said.

On the younger Binay's challenge for both of them to undergo a physical examination, Mercado said he was willing to undergo a medical test "anytime and anywhere."

Mercado vows to implement 'window hours' in Makati if . . .

By Nina Calleja

SHOULD HE WIN IN HIS BID to become the city's next mayor, Makati Vice Mayor Ernesto Mercado promised to permanently lift the city's exemption from the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority's so-called "window hours" for the number-coding scheme.

Mercado said that once elected into office, he would allow motorists to enter the city from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The same rules in the metropolis, including Makati, decided to endorse the UVVRP from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. without the five-hour window.

"I am confident that we will be able to improve the traffic situation in the city with our comprehensive traffic management plan that will include significant reforms in enforcement and infrastructure," Mercado said in a statement.

The policy change, he added, was part of the reform package he was offering city residents which would "signal a new regime of cooperation with the MMDA with which Mayor Jejomar Binay has been in loggerheads over the past few years."

METROBRIEFS

Cop arrested for pointing gun at man

A POLICEMAN from the Manila Police District was arrested in Quezon City on Sunday for allegedly pointing his gun at a Manila Electric Co. employee over a traffic altercation. He was identified as PO1 Dionisio Fabito, 34, a resident of Barangay Bagong Silangan in Quezon City. Case investigator PO2 Nichen Padua of the Quezon police station said Fabito fired a warning shot after Ricardo Gil Abuyuan, 33, a Meralco employee and resident of Bagong Silangan, in the same barangay, initial investigation showed that the two men were driving their motorcycles when they nearly collided with each other on J. P. Rizal Street, Bascon Extension at around 8 a.m. on Sunday. Fabito reportedly lost his temper and confronted the victim, taking out his gun and pointing it at Abuyuan. Residents in the area noticed the commotion and mobbed Fabito before calling up the police who arrested him.

John M. Aurelio

Burst pipe stalls traffic for hours on Edsa

A PORTION of Edsa ended up under knee-high water yesterday morning after a pipe of Manila Water Co. burst, stalling traffic on the southbound lane for hours. The flooding occurred at the corner of Edsa and Gen. Kalentong Street near Greenhills, San Juan City, starting at about 9 a.m. and making the area impassable to light vehicles. As a result, traffic was backed up all the way to North Edsa. Workers of the water firm managed to close down the pipe at around 8:30 a.m. and traffic returned to normal mostly two hours later. John Ilas Sia, a Manila Water customer service representative, said the company had already sent water tanks to affected areas in San Juan, including Annapolis, Greenhills, Corinthian Hills, Cardinal and Camp Aguinaldo. He added that the repair of the water pipe was ongoing although he could not say when it would be completed.

Ezra Riana Reyes, contributor

2 nabbed for drug in Taguig City

TWO DRUG peddlers were arrested by authorities in Taguig City in separate buy- bust operations last week, the police announced yesterday. In a statement, Senior Supt. Gerardo Chacoben, Taguig police chief, identified the first as Warner Cayagonap, 33 and Ma. Elizabeth Tabilang, 40, who were arrested on Friday night for selling drugs to undercover policewoman. Cayagonap was president of Barangay Lower Bicutan while Tabilang lived in Barangay Signal Village. Both yielded drugs and drug paraphernalia.

Mike Morales

Convenience store manager shot, robbed

A CONVENIENCE store manager was wounded after she was shot by a robber who took her bag and cash yesterday morning on Timog Avenue in Barangay Fatima Location, 21, was rushed to East Avenue Medical Center (EAMC) after she sustained a gunshot wound to the waist. Police said Location was the manager of a 7-11 convenience store on the area. Case investigator PO3 John Dalisay of the Kamuning police station said the robbery happened at around 10 a.m. outside the store on Timog Avenue corner Sainer Street in Barangay South Triangle. The victim was on her way to the bank to deposit some money when a man tried to take her bag. When she resisted, the robber shot her and escaped into a nearby alley. Bystanders rushed the victim to the EAMC for medical treatment. Police said the robber made off with the victim's Lacoste bag and P8,000 in cash.

John M. Aurelio

METRO
Citizen's Call

Ailing 45-year-old man in need of financial aid

By Santiago R. Alcantara

MANUEL'S THUMBNAIL DIGging hurts with Adrian eye disease has left a permanent mark on him: he walks and talks like a drunken person.

"The people I meet do not notice it but when I am saying because I cannot which usually happens a week after I start taking my medicines. I also cannot walk straight," said the 45-year-old bachelor who lives with his sister on Dillo Street, Caloocan City.

The doctors at the Philippine General Hospital, however, believe his condition is curable.

"They told me I [illegible] must have patience. It runs my past job as a foreman in movie studios," Teodoro said, adding that he feels sorry for himself because he did not use have masks to protect himself while he worked on a chain of cinemas in the city from 1996 to 1999.

His medicines cost him P5,000 per month, an amount he can barely afford.

Business readers who would like to help him can contact his sister Erlinda at 9926404/3956. They can also deposit their donations in Teodoro's Philippine National Bank savings account Account number 3603763400003.

TEODORO

DID YOU KNOW

IN 1924, Muntinlupa was among the districts of Rizal, but in 1963, the Philippine Commission put the municipality under Bifan, Laguna. In 1905, because of a petition by its residents, Muntinlupa was returned to Rizal and became part of Taguig. It became an independent municipality by virtue of Executive Order 109 dated Dec. 10, 1931, which took effect on Jan. 1, 1918.

Cyril L. Bonabento, Inquirer Research

Obama: Qaida would use A-bomb on US

WASHINGTON—PRESIDENT Barack Obama warned on Sunday that al-Qaida would not hesitate to use a nuclear weapon against the United States, before hosting a global summit aimed at thwarting such a nightmare scenario.

Obama will seek support from fellow leaders for his effort to safeguard all unsecured nuclear material around the world within four years when he opens on Monday the largest summit chaired by a US president in 65 years.

It is designed to cap the horrific possibility of a nuclear detonation in New York City, London or Johannesburg, and the serious global economic, political and security menace that would result, to characterize the gravity of the threat.

"The single biggest threat to US security, both short-term, medium-term and long-term, would be the possibility of a terrorist organization obtaining a nuclear weapon," Obama said on the eve of the two-day summit.

"This is something that could change the security landscape of this country and around the world for years to come.

"We know that organizations like al-Qaida are in the process of trying to secure a nuclear weapon—a weapon of mass destruction that they have no compunction at using."

Despite the focus on terrorist groups, two states—Iran and North Korea, already have the bomb—will cast a shadow over the global meet.

Washington is leading an effort to toughen sanctions within weeks on Iran over its nuclear program, which the US and its allies say is aimed at producing weapons, a charge Tehran denies.

The White House will seek concrete commitments from world leaders on securing stockpiles of separated plutonium and uranium, to ensure that they cannot be stolen, smuggled or sold to terrorists.

"The threat of nuclear terrorism is increasing," Secretary of State Hillary Clinton told NBC News.

To kick off his counter-proliferation drive, Obama met Russian President Dmitry Medvedev and Saudi African President Jacob Zuma.

Kazakhstan handed over its entire nuclear weapons arsenal at the end of the Cold War, but is a key player in Washington as it tells itself as the world's top exporter of uranium.

South Africa gave up its nuclear weapons program in the 1990s, and US officials pointed to its example, saying its security was enhanced by the move.

He also held talks with Prime Ministers Manmohan Singh and Yousuf Raza Gilani of nuclear-armed rivals India and Pakistan.

Obama, who last week signed a landmark disarmament treaty with Russia and laid out a new US nuclear strategy limiting how Washington could use atomic weapons, said he was confident that the summit would garner important progress.

"I feel very good at this stage in the degree of commitment and sense of urgency that I've seen from the world leaders to be on this issue," Obama said.

"We think we can make enormous progress on this."

The summit itself will focus primarily on separated plutonium and highly enriched uranium stocks, rather than nuclear-

US PRESIDENT Barack Obama, right, meets with Pakistan Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani ahead of the Nuclear Security Summit on April 11. AP

ready weapons, which will be the subject of a separate meeting in Obama's hometown Chicago in 2012.

The statement itself will focus primarily on separated plutonium and highly enriched uranium stocks, rather than nuclear-

The WORLD

Editor Lorraine B. Gioco

Poland struggles to come to terms with death crash

WARSAW—POLAND STRUGGLED ON MONDAY TO COME TO terms with its worst peacetime tragedy, as relatives braced to identify bodies including the first lady's and mourners waited to see the late president lying in state.

Two days after Saturday's disaster claimed the lives of President Lech Kaczynski and 95 others, sending shockwaves across Poland and beyond, the ex-communist European Union nation of 38.5 million people was still reeling.

Echoing the mass gatherings last week when Poles honored their native son Pope John Paul II on his death in 2005, hundreds of thousands gathered spontaneously at the weekend to pay tribute in Kaczynski.

"What else can we do but pay tribute to him, just be here, honor his memory and share the pain of his family and the pain of the other families who're suffering," said fifty-something mourner Maria Krzywicka. See story on page A25

Kaczynski's body was flown back from Russia on Sunday, with the hearse traveling slowly along the 12-kilometer route from the airport to the presidential palace as mourners of all generations looked on.

"I saw the president's coffin, covered with a red and white Polish flag," said 30-year-old Witek, who waited for two hours. "I made a sign of the cross, like my mother told me."

The body is to lie in state for Poles to pay their last respects on Tuesday, his date has been set for Kaczynski's funeral.

The 96 other bodies have been taken from Smolensk to Moscow, where relatives headed on Sunday.

"Only 14 bodies will be identifiable without problems," Polish Health Minister Ewa Kopacz told the rolling news channel TVN24. "Ten others would be identified thanks to clothing/dating marks." For the remainder, DNA tests will be needed, she added.

Some mourners said they were saddened that the body of First Lady Maria Kaczynska, 59, did not remain together with that of her husband.

"I'd have thought there'd be two coffins, the president's and his wife Maria Kaczynska's. They were always together in life, and I think the president would have wanted his wife to be with him even on this journey," said Zuzanna Skrzywanek.

The Kaczynskis wed in 1978.

Kaczynski's popular nationalism often made him a divisive figure at home and elsewhere in the EU, which Poland joined in 2004. But the nation has united in grief.

His Polish official plane clipped trees as it tried to land in foggy weather on Saturday morning in Smolensk, prompting Russia, on the way to a memorial for victims of a World War II massacre. There were no survivors.

The 60-year-old head of state's twin brother Jaroslaw Kaczynski—Poland's former prime minister who is now leader of the conservative opposition—rushed to Smolensk to identify the corpse but was back in Warsaw on Sunday to receive the late president's body.

Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin on Saturday pledged to give all possible assistance to the victims' families. Russian authorities waived visa regulations for them.

Russia ordered a day of national mourning for Monday and Poland's fellow EU nations were also scheduled to pay tribute on that day.

Besides the Kaczynski couple, the dead also included Poland's deputy foreign and defense ministers, two deputy speakers of parliament, the head of the central bank, its military chief of staff and its Army, Navy and Air Force commanders.

Most Western nations have rules banning the president from traveling with the prime minister, for example, or group trips by members of the military high command. Some multinational firms have identical regulations.

Poland, however, lacks such restrictions, and knows the decisions rests on leaders.

In September 2008, Kaczynski and Prime Minister Donald Tusk flew together to a ceremony in Gwatemala—sparking a debate on security reform. (Sun.Star/Asia.com)

AFP

BRINGING candles and flowers, hundreds of thousands of Polish people gather in front of the presidential palace in Warsaw on April 11 to pay tribute to victims of the air crash in which President Lech Kaczynski was killed and many members of the country's elite. Russian investigators said they were working closely with their Polish counterparts to determine the cause of the plane crash that plunged Poland into shock and grief.

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1 forest, 2 Polish tragedies 70 years apart

WARSAW, POLAND—THE LEADERS OF Poland's government in exile while the nation was under Nazi German occupation during World War II were among those being mourned in the capital Warsaw this weekend after the country's president and 95 others died in a plane crash in Russia.

Among those killed in the April 10 crash near Smolensk, western Russia, were his wife, Maria Kaczynska, his closest aides, lawmakers, Army commanders, church figures, historic figures, prison camp survivors and relatives of the victims of the 70,000 massacre of Polish officers in Katyn and in other places. They had been traveling to Katyn to mark the 70th anniversary of the massacre.

The Soviet secret police killed thousands of Polish military leaders and intellectuals in Katyn and other places at the start of World War II. It was part of a strategy to subdue the country and better control it.

Among the victims on Saturday was a former president in exile, Ryszard Kaczorowski, 90, the last leader of Poland's exiled government in London. The exile leadership was established during the Nazi occupation of Poland and continued to declare itself the rightful government during the decades of communism, until Walesa became Poland's first popularly elected president in 1990.

The crash also took an icon of Poland's Solidarity freedom movement, 89-year-old Anna Walentynowicz. Workers at the Lenin Shipyard in Gdansk were on strike when Walentynowicz was fired from her job as a crane operator in August 1980 for her opposition activity. Her injustice sparked strikes that spread the ambition to other places across the nation, giving rise to Solidarity, the movement that helped bring about the demise of communism in Poland nine years later.

Poland also lost one of the architects of its economic stability during the recent global crisis, the head of the National Bank of Poland, Slawomir Skrzypek, 48, a close Kaczynski associate.

Skrzypek's nomination in 2007 was highly criticized because he was perceived as inexperienced and Kaczynski's critics claimed overspending by the Kaczynskis defending the value of the zloty and the bank's security helped Poland emerge as the EU's only economy to avoid recession amid the global downturn last year.

"It was one of truly brilliant moves recently in Poland," said political analyst Rafal Chwedoruk from Warsaw University. "He took his positions among heated disputes and he came out victorious. Even his critics were saying under his leadership the bank was playing its role well."

Several of Poland's top military officers were killed in the crash, including the Army chief of staff, Gen. Franciszek Gagor, 58; the Navy's Vice Admiral Andrzej Karweta, 51; Gen. Andrzej Blasik, 47, from the Air Force, and the top commander of the ground forces, Gen. Tadeusz Buk, 49.

Also killed was Anusz Kochanowski, 65, the state official in charge of protecting citizens' rights. He was often in the news this past winter because he waged a strong battle against the government for refusing to provide swine flu vaccines to the public amid a global panic, warning the decision as a violation of basic rights.

Another prominent figure to perish was Janusz Kurtyka, 55, a historian and researcher who headed the state-run Institute of Remembrance Institute that oversees Nazi and communist-era files. Some files document collaboration of public figures with the communist secret police—secrets that have been used in political infighting in past years. His decision to let information seep out made him a controversial figure.

Mr. Kochanowski and Kurtyka were men of learning and their deaths means a great loss to the intellectual life," Chwedoruk said.

"We are dealing with a loss of some of the elite—brainy politicians, intellectuals, scholars. There is an measure for that," he said. AP

Editor Raul G. Manuel ■ Assistant Editor Corrie S. Mariano

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SMC takes over Caticlan airport project

Acquires firm with 25-year concession deal

By Doris C. Dumlao

DIVERSIFYING SAN MIGUEL CORP. HAS SIGNED a deal to take over the country's first privatized airport development project—the modernization of the Caticlan airport, gateway to the world-famous Boracay Island.

San Miguel told the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday that its subsidiary San Miguel Holdings Corp., has executed a share-sale purchase agreement to subsidy acquire a majority interest in Caticlan International Airport Development Corp. (CIADC). The conglomerate is coming in as the strategic partner of the consortium of businessmen George Ong, Rafael Perez, Lito Sharie and EPRT Business Management and Development Corp.

CIADC holds the exclusive rights, obligations and privileges to finance, design, construct, operate and maintain the Caticlan Airport by virtue of a concession agreement dated June 22, 2000, with the Department of Transportation and Communications and the Civil Aviation Authority.

Closing of the agreement is subject to certain conditions and an appropriate disclosure would be made upon satisfaction of such conditions, the San Miguel disclosure added.

The buyouts earlier reported that SMC was buying a 51 percent stake in the Tang-led consortium, which will modernize and operate the Caticlan airport under a 25-year concession arrangement with the government. The project is in line with San Miguel's diversification into the infrastructure business and its recent foray into leisure estate development in Boracay.

"This is a good project. They

(MORE)

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'7 big winners' to raise $75-B investments for RP

By Doris L. Luces and Arlyn R. Nera

THE PHILIPPINES STANDS TO reap its biggest investment windfall in recent history should policymakers choose to focus resources on developing over the next decade seven industries where the country is globally competitive.

According to the Joint Foreign Chambers (JFC)—a lobby umbrella organization of several Philippine-based foreign chambers of commerce—these "seven big winners" are agribusiness; business process outsourcing; creative industries; infrastructure; manufacturing and logistics; mining; and tourism, medical travel and retirement.

Australia-New Zealand Chamber of Commerce president John Geary predicted that as much as $75 billion in foreign direct investments would flow into these industries from the 2010-2020 period if both the government and the private sector focus on developing these industries.

A total of 16 million jobs would also be created by these investments, Geary said in a briefing in Makati City yesterday.

Geary based his estimates on the fact that the Philippines usually received about one percent of the total foreign direct investment that flow into the Asia-Pacific region that averaged $200 billion on any given year, thus the $75-billion estimate for the next decade.

According to the JFC, the Philippines is located in a region of "very high economic growth" that is experiencing the highest growth rate in the world at present, as the seven great economies are concerned.

In fact, thanks largely to China, the Asia-Pacific's output, exports and employment have mostly returned to levels seen before the global financial crisis, which began almost three years ago.

"Leading the global economy, real gross domestic product growth in developing Asia is poised to rise to 8.7 percent in 2010 after slowing to 6.5 percent in 2008 and 3 percent in 2009," the JFC said, quoting a recent World Bank report.

It pointed out that in 2008, the World Bank identified 13 economies which had sustained growth rates of 7 percent or more in the past World War 2 period, of which eight are in Asia.

WHAT IS THE COMMON INGREDIENT USED BY THE COUNTRY'S TOP 7 FOOD CHAINS?

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IMI expanding in China

By Doris C. Dumlao

ANGLO-LED ELECTRONICS manufacturing services firm Integrated Micro-Electronics Inc. (IMI) has expanded its operations in mainland China with the opening of a new factory in Chongzhi, Sichuan Province.

The new factory brought to six IMI's manufacturing facilities in the country. The other IMI plants are in Shenzhen (in Luantang, Baihua, Pinxing), Analog, and Chongqing.

A simple inauguration ceremony was held on April 9 at the newest factory in Xinda District's Meinei Industrial Park, which was attended by IMI chair Anton Jurgens Schaft de Ayala, president Arthur Tan and board member Gerardo Ablaza Jr., IMI told the Philippine Stock Exchange on Monday.

IMI's 7,500-square meter Chengdu plant will produce a variety of electronics manufacturing solutions from printed circuit board assembly to full product assembly for automotive, medical, and telecommunications infrastructure industries. Customer design services are also offered to original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) in collaboration with IMI's design and engineering centers in Shenzhen, Singapore, the Philippines and the United States.

"IMI's expansion to Chengdu is part of our strategy to bring IMI's services closer to OEMs' which increasingly require greater capacity in China to supply a large domestic market and the export markets," said Sohel de Ayala, who is also chair and chief executive officer of IMI parent Ayala Corp.

"We believe China will remain at the center of the global electronics manufacturing industry and will be a significant driver of the world economy and region's growth momentum. Having this strategic position in the region will allow us to capture a greater share of volume orders as demand turns to step with the economic cycle," he added.

Tan said IMI was poised to one of its key OEM customers in support its new plant in Chongzhi. He added that IMI had also considered the steadily rising costs of manufacturing and labor supply shortages in the coastal regions in its further expansion into southwestern China.

"Southwestern China's manufacturing costs are more competitive compared to those in the coastal cities. It also has the largest pool of migrant workers. Because of this, the move into the central regions by OEMs and their OEM partners has gained momentum," he said.

Unlike an OEM, an electronics manufacturing service (EMS) firm does not manufacture its own products. Instead, it helps OEMs develop and manufacture their products in a cost-efficient manner. It handles volume manufacturing and possible product development and engineering.

Lopez holding firm posts 614% profit growth

THE LOPEZ'S FIRST PHILIPPINE Holdings Corp. said its 2009 net profit surged by 614 percent largely due to proceeds from the sale of most of its stake in power retailer Manila Electric Co.

FPH disclosed to the Philippine Stock Exchange on Monday that its audited financial statement for 2009 showed a net income attributable to majority shareholders of P6.21 billion compared to P1.19 billion in the previous year.

"A large part of the increase came from the net gain on the sale of Meralco shares which amounted to P5.2 billion," it said. Of this net gain, P3.7 billion was from the sale of 20 percent stake in Meralco for about P20 billion last year to the First Pacific group of Hong Kong.

The year 2009 also saw an additional 6.7 percent interest in Meralco—or half of its remaining stake—to the First Pacific group at P300 per share.

Citimi Online head of research April Lee Tan said her brokerage had raised its earnings on 2010's fair value to P98 per share, "since after it announced the P22.4 billion dividend (P4.7 billion Meralco shares to First Pacific) holding firm Lopez Holdings Inc." (Doris C. Dumlao)

SMC ...

From page B1

con make Boracay like a full-fledged beach site in Indonesia. What is really needed in Boracay is a good airport," said Joseph Sicam, president of Eagle Equities Inc.

The modernization of the Caticlan airport alone, is worth about P2.3 billion, based on the framework approved by the National Economic and Development Authority. It involves the construction of a bigger airport passenger terminal, extension of the existing runway from 950 meters to 2,100 meters, improvement of the road network and upgrading of airport facilities and an idle sorted side. The proponents have also committed to build new taxiways, install five lighting equipment, and construct a diversion road.

The project is based on a build-rehabilitate-operate-transfer agreement. GMAC has up to seven years to build and expand the airport and 25 years to operate the facilities. All revenues will go to GMAC except for earnings from the operation and maintenance of navigation systems, which will go to the DOTC.

The project also has a commercial component that entails the development of a 16-hectare property beside the airport. The peripheral project is estimated to cost P3.6 billion.

The modernization work on the Caticlan airport started late January. Once finished, airlines in Boracay are expected to be more competitive since airlines can use bigger aircraft with more seating capacity.

San Miguel also announced earlier its interest to take part in a consortium that is bidding for the right to modernize the Clark International Airport.

Speed of the market

MARKET RIDER

Dan Somera

LAST WEEK WAS LIKE A REMIX of what we've seen earlier when trading closed for the Holy Week. We again had less number of trading days with the celebration of "Araw ng Kagitingan" last Friday.

At the close of trading last Thursday, stock prices were observably losing steam. Whatever negative signals the market might have given out last Thursday was again totally erased by market developments the following day, similar to what had happened on April 1, after closing weak on March 31.

Now, things have completely changed again since last Friday. Wall Street performed well. The Dow Jones Industrial index broke through the psychological index barrier of 11,000 for the first time in one and one half years on account of positive US economic data.

So for the local market, how will prices behave from here on? Will they continue to rise or will the rest will they shift to higher gear? Or, will they even slide to higher gear?

We can probably find some answers if we look back on how the market performed since the start of the year.

The market has been on a continuous upward climb since the second week of February its momentum has been increasing broken up only by what could be considered natural market corrections.

The market climbed up 474 points in just over 50 days, finding itself at its current position.

Such pace is considered fast and very uncanny by last year's standards as it came from its latest a 345 point decline that seriously reversed trading sentiments toward the end of January as the market lost its footings on recurrent fears involving economic recovery of the United States and the rest of the world.

Looking further back to last year, the market can be described to be on a silent run. It was certainly on a run-up because it propelled the major market index up to as much as 1,200 additional points, from mid to end of the year.

As reported, consolidation—which completes about 33 percent of the economy—continues to expand in March, in particular, wholesale inventories base growth. In turn, sales of wholesalers reached their highest in 16 months.

Along with these developments, retail purchases for the first quarter may have probably increased at its highest, based on survey results from Bloomberg News, indicative of the possibility that personal income is growing or at least improving on the overall.

Considering the prevailing market conditions in the United States, its economy is now out of the close to could just be in the middle of a recovered.

The current local market still is part of a momentum that has been gaining since last year. The speed though at this time may soon vary. It will draw in one from local and foreign developments that may unfold before the national elections.

To summate, a guess based on foregoing observations, market momentum may have the ability to shift into higher gear yet. But this could taper off should there be problems with the national elections. The logical finishing call for me at this point is, "when in doubt (of the situation), stay out." If so you always go back in—even at higher costs.

(You may reach the Market Rider at marketrider@manilastandard.net.ph or already at dansomera@yahoo.com)

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Source: BusinessWorld's Top 1000 Corporations in the Philippines, 2009

PSALM raises P20B from sale of 5-yr, 7-yr bonds

Additional issue worth P10B eyed

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE STATE DEBT TASKED TO dispose of the assets and manage the debts of the National Power Corp. yesterday raised P20 billion from the sale of bonds in the domestic market.

Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. (PSALM) issued five-year and seven-year bonds worth P10 billion each.

The first fetched a coupon rate of 6.875 percent while the second got 7.75 percent.

Ma. Lin L. Gamboa, acting president and chief executive of PSALM, said in an interview that the price-setting auction resulted in "fairly priced" issues.

Still, the resulting rates were 28 basis points higher than the secondary market rates for five-year debt paper and 44.8 basis points higher for the seven-year paper.

"PSALM issues usually carry a premium over other floats," Gamboa said. "Compared to the Pag-IBIG bonds, for example, the purchaser of our bonds does not qualify as corruptible with their Agri-Agra law."

In March, the Pag-IBIG Fund raised some P12 billion in five-year bonds which investors swamped with tenders resulting almost three times the offer.

Demand for the Pag-IBIG bond was high because the bond carried a full government guarantee aside from serving as an alternative means for banks to comply with the Agri-Agra law, which requires them to allot 15 percent of their loanable funds to agricultural activities.

PSALM aims to raise as much as P30 billion more as its bond will be an offer to retail buyers until April 19.

"We will issue a total of up to P50 billion (in bonds), but the issuance of the Additional P30 billion will depend on the market's response," Gamboa said.

She said the proceeds would cover PSALM's general funding needs, mainly for the refinancing of maturing debts.

The state firm needs to pay P1.2 billion worth of debts this year and $1 billion next year.

So far, PSALM has sold $6.98 billion worth of assets previously held by National Power Corp.

Manila Water eyes 6 projects in India

By Riza T. Olchondra

MANILA WATER CO. INC. IS eyeing for six projects in India as part of the company's expansion effort, according to officials of the Ayala-led water services provider.

"We are working on finishing for the projects in the next four months," Manila Water president Jose Ibazeta told reporters in a briefing. He said Manila Water would go through the qualification process for the six projects.

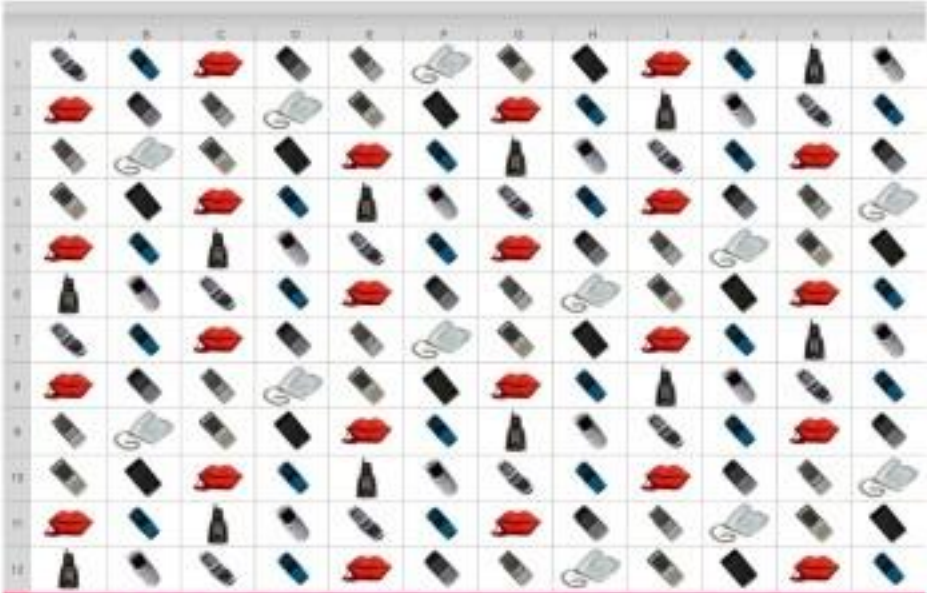
He said Manila Water would look at bulk water projects, possible concessions, and the operation and maintenance of facilities in three states: Maharashtra, Gujarat and Rajasthan.

Apart from India, Manila Water is also looking at opportunities in Indonesia. It already has a project to decrease nonrevenue water levels in Vietnam's Ho Chi Minh City.

Chief finance officer Luis Juan Oreta declined to say how much the company would be willing to spend to fund the projects, but he said the necessary investments would be met as needed, citing a partnership the company forged with the Ayala group of India.

Oreta said that assuming each project would cost $50 million, and Manila Water's share would be $30 million for each, then six projects would entail about $180 million.

"At $180 million, that's within our capability," he said.



HOW DO THE 5 BIGGEST TELECOM COMPANIES KEEP THEIR FINANCIAL SIGNALS STRONG AND CLEAR?

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Source: BusinessWorld's Top 1000 Corporations in the Philippines 2009

LIFESTYLE Wellness

Why even Madonna is doing Barre 3

Latest US fitness trend, now in Manila, combines Pilates, yoga, ballet for posture, muscle toning and core strengthening

GLEICHE on engage the lower abdominals

BARRE STRETCH. Elise Isot extend into the ground with the rebounding effect, the extended leg gives a stretch

By Margo C. Enriquez
Contributor

AMERICAN FITNESS instructor Darcy Harding is pushing 50, but she doesn't look it. She has a toned body and ripped arms that would be the envy of women.

Harding taught aerobics in her 20s during the Jane Fonda era, pumped iron, went skiing and running. An herniated disc forced her to give up high-impact activities. "I was in pain. I had to focus on posture and alignment," she says.

She took to joint-friendly activities such as yoga, Pilates and swimming. One day she attended a new class called Barre 3 in Portland, Oregon. It combined the principles of Pilates, ballet and yoga into 60 minutes.

Since then she's been hooked. And no longer complains of her back problem.

New fitness craze

Barre 3 is the latest fitness craze in Portland, and the Philippines is the first franchise out of Oregon's capital. The founder, Sadie Lincoln, has extensive background in expanding health clubs and developing group fitness programs.

Barre 3 was inspired by the Lotte Berk Method, a workout of exercises at the ballet barre, core strengthening and stretching, all aimed at lengthening muscles.

Lincoln devised her own exercises, which include yoga poses to add light and medium resistance movements.

Last December, Madonna booked a studio in New York to check out Barre 3 with Lincoln, and she loved it.

"Barre 3 is about posture and alignment. It starts with our feet. The more we root our feet into the ground, it is meant to feel the rebounding effect up your body. The more you press down, the more you will engage the muscles from your feet all the way up. We want to keep a steady engagement in the abdominals, pull in the abs, align the shoulders and work from here," explains Harding, who spent three months in Manila training local instructors at The Spa.

Barre 3 requires props such as a ball, long ramps and Barlite weights. The class starts with warming up the upper body with Barlite weights. The ballet barre series consists of lengthening the leg and lower back on the barre. Ramps are intermittent pulled for a better stretch.

The barre work is a take-off from the Lotte Berk Method, which is largely ballet-based. The leg series is the most energetic part where there are lots of barre bends as in ballet, and other exercises to work out the inner and outer thigh and inner buttocks.

In the mat series, there are exercises for the gluteal muscles, hips and hamstrings, then the core exercises to strengthen the abdominals. The class sometimes ends with yoga stretches.

"The ball is another tool to change things up. As something to push on, we use our abdominals. If you squeeze between the inner thighs, you draw in the energy and that will trigger all the little muscles in the legs quickly," says Harding.

Benefits

"The aim of Barre 3 is to build strength, improve alignment, posture and focus on little muscles instead of the big muscles when lifting weights. It's the small muscles that support the spine. The exercises help you find length in your abdominals and develop lean muscle tone. They help you become stronger. We're working on toning the muscles good for posture and help you not to get osteoporotic."

Starting in summer when people come in bar class and ask if and when they are going to lose weight. Unlike in Dis-

Why even Madonna is doing Barre 3

From page C1

gen, women take Barre 3 at a fitness regimen to improve their well-being.

"In Oregon, moms carry kids all day. They are out of shape more. They come in class and we talk about ruptured off hips, snapping in alignment, and not one shoulder dropping off to another side."

Harding always tells them: "They have to note if they are eating healthy, lowering their fat intake, coming to Barre 3 three or four times a week, and if they are doing cardio on off days. All those things will change your body. This is not a magic bullet or pill that will make you lose inches. But if you're consistent and consistent with what you're doing, you would see improvements. You get stronger; you will lose inches; you will see a toned arm and toned tummy; your legs will change. You will develop physical muscles. Your heart is healthier if you're exercising. It is beneficial for feeling good. You will have more energy and stamina," she says.

Barre 3 is taught at The Spa at The Ritz and Rockwell. Call 0939-9 [illegible] or 621-7799.

CORE exercise for flexibility and refreshing the waistline

Sportswear brand wins top European award

COLUMBIA SPORTSWEAR Company won two awards at the recent Outdoor Show in Friedrichshafen, Germany.

Scoring 162 entries by companies from 18 different countries, Columbia Sportswear Company's two products—Bowmore (160) running shoes and Mobex (160) pack—earned the industry friends for innovation and design after being chosen as winners in the apparel/helmets/shoes category and backpacks/travel luggage category, respectively. Presented by the International Permit Design, the event is considered as Europe's most prestigious and influential award, giving body that recognizes top performers in the active footwear and outdoor accessories industries.

Columbia's Bowmore trail running shoe offered trail performance "out-of-the-box" delivered with extremely planted support, stability, feel, traction and fit. Its 3D Techlite rear-foot capture system rewarded runners with user-friendly features as it is lightweight, comfortable, midspeed and aid straps that heal for trail-running performance. The shoes' Techlite mid-sole, meanwhile, provides support and cushioning for all-day trail running. Bowmore has also recently won the Editor's Choice award from Trail Running Magazine in the US.

The other award-winning product, the Mobex trail pack line, on the other hand, was created for active outdoor users. Featuring the lightweight trail pack category by combining distinctive materials and unique construction, the Mobex trail pack is as versatile as the conditions experienced by adventure users.

"These two award winners are great examples of the innovative ideas that come from drawing insights directly from consumers and fo-

COLUMBIA Sportswear's Mobex trail pack

cusing our product designers on the challenge of solving real problems with technologies that are easy to understand and easy to use," says Tiffany Bottighofen, brand manager for Columbia.

Apart from the award winning products, Columbia Sportswear Company also offers other sales-performance products like the Imgobee™ (one of the best-selling ski jackets in history) and the Omni-Tech® hooded line of products (which provides maximum waterproof breathable protection in its superior fabric technology).

Columbia products are available through more than 13,000 retailers in 72 countries and operate sales offices in North America, Europe and Asia, including wholly owned subsidiaries in Canada and Japan.

Exclusively distributed locally by Premier Group of Companies, they are available in the following Columbia Sportswear outlets: 2/F, Greenbelt 3; G/F, SM Cebu Northwing; 1/F, Bldg. A, SM Megamall; 2/F, SM The Block; 2/F, SM Mall of Asia; G/F, Limketkai Mall; 2/F, Festival Supermall; 2/F, Gateway Mall, and in all R.O.X., Rex Toy/Toys stores. For more information, visit www.columbia.com.

News digest tackles ways to deal with ailments, kids' diet and more

THE MARCH/APRIL 2011 issue of the Healthy Options Lifestyle Digest offers ways to deal with ailments.

If you're carrying a lot of extra weight or if your accumulated daily habits have caused a lot of strain on your back, you'll most likely experience back pain. Back pain may be caused by injury to the muscles, bones and/or nerves of the spine. Read about "back Pain—Symptoms and Treatment" in the Spine Care section.

If you or a family member has had an X-ray of the spine, revealing findings pointing to uneven ribs and shoulder imbalance, it may be scoliosis. It refers to a lateral or rotational curve and deformities in the spine. A person suspected of scoliosis must consult an orthopedician who specializes in spine diseases and bone abnormalities. The orthopedist will usually ask the patient to undergo examinations. It's important to take care of the spine because if misbehaved, it may have devastating effects on the nervous system, which limits life and causes a multitude of other health issues.

For an overview on scoliosis, read about it in the Spine Care section.

If other members of the family are facing another type of condition marked by physical reactions that include shaking, rapid heartbeat and nausea, then what they most likely have are phobias. Most people can live with their phobias by avoiding what scares them, Read the article "Phobias and Fears" to glean information about the common types of phobias, and what to do when it gets too intense or disabling.

The article, "Healthy BBQ—10 What You Will Need to Have You Cook It" in the Food Matters section presents facts and tips on recycled grilling gear.

If you're fond of eating Japanese food like sushi and sashimi, read both the health's benefits as well as the potential risks of "Sushi & Sashimi—Health Benefits and Risks" also in the Food Matters section.

Taking center stage in the Supplement Review is Omega-3. Understand the omega-3-healthy brain connection, and learn how to optimize your omega-3 intake, through the article "6 Help Boosters of Omega-3."

Know the "Top 10 Supplements for Healthy Kids" in the Kids' Health section.

Check out health tips for grown-ups, like caring for the feet by not crossing too much pressure on them with prolonged use of high-heeled shoes; knowing how to deal with snoring problems, and learning about natural remedies for Dancing-Talking-Sun-

The Healthy Options Lifestyle News Digest is available free in racks of Healthy Options stores, with branches located at: UG, Shangri-La Plaza Mall, Mandaluyong City; Bonifacio Supermarket, Pilarcon, Makati City; 2/L, Rockwell Powerplant, Mandaluyong City; Ayala Center, Cebu City; UG/F, SM City North EDSA; 2/L, SM City Manila; 2/L, SM Megamall; B, Edsa, Mandaluyong City; SM Pampanga; SM Sta. Rosa; SM Mall of Asia; SM Clark; Bonifacio High Street at the Fort; Trinoma in North Edsa, Quezon City; SM City Davao; Rockwell Makati; "The North" at SM City Cebu; and at the LG/F, Greenbelt 3, Ayala Center, Makati City. Visit www.healthyoptions.com.ph.

How to reduce cellulite

By Mirah Felipe Mendoza
Contributor

SPACE SEEKERS, DIETERS and beach weddings are common this summer, many women enroll in supervised weight training programs.

Their significant weight loss and fat percentage drop can be attributed to weight training at least twice a week, combined with cardio exercises, stretch classes, core classes, sports and balanced meals. But once they stop any form of resistance training for more than a week, their lean mass decreases. It will be difficult for them to lose weight once they resume the program.

If one is on vacation abroad, do brisk walking while shopping. Maintain muscle mass by doing body-weight or resistance band exercises while spending time on the beach.

Sexy body

Aside from health reasons, women want to lose weight to look attractive, feel good and fit in smaller sizes of clothes.

In losing weight, women hesitate to join exercise programs and lifestyle. The reason for body fat, more muscle mass and having a shapely body.

According to a study published in the Journal of American Dietetic Association, a strength training program of two days per week can significantly decrease body fat and increase fat-free mass in women 19-44 years old, which also means faster metabolism.

Try one-on-one or group strength training at least twice a week. Full-body resistance training with a moderate load is more achievable than exercising different body parts more days of the week. Do cardio and flexibility exercises. Monitor your weight, girth measurements and body fat percentage.

Cellulite

Cellulite can be reduced through injectable interventions, endermologie, topical treatments, laser and shockwave therapy. But, one doesn't have to resort to such expensive treatments. Do it the natural way by eating healthy and exercising, says a study published in the Journal of Cosmetic and Laser Therapy. The Journal of Drugs in Dermatology says there are more fat cells in the thighs, hips and buttocks than in other areas of a woman's body.

Running alone will not

BODY weight exercise

WEIGHT training

make cellulite disappear. Revamp your exercise program. Maybe you lack a resistance training program or you just do the same exercise. Vary lower body exercises by using different planes of motion, and trying different exercises in sprints. Change squats and lunges by using multiplane movements such as forward, backward, side and sliding motions. Try different exercises like cardio kick-boxing, step aerobics, swimming or indoor/outdoor cycling. Stick to a healthy diet and drink water.

E-mail the author at mirah@speakgroup.com.

SPAHOLICS

How Bentosa helps improve blood flow and drains toxins

BENTOSA or cupping stimulates nerve systems and keeps the body balanced.

By Emma Rose Policarpio
Contributor

SEVERAL SPAS ALL OVER the country offer Bentosa treatments that their owners swear by.

Collectively known as Traditional Chinese Medicine or TCM, these treatments include herbs, acupuncture and massage techniques. TCM is one of the oldest systems of medicine in history, dating back to 3,000 years.

It is partly based on the Taoist belief that everything in the universe is interconnected and the mind and body are not viewed separately, but part of an energetic system.

Since its introduction in the West, TCM has been used to treat a wide range of ailments. In the late '70s, the World Health Organization recognized the utility of acupuncture and Oriental medicine in treating over four dozen ailments, including musculoskeletal conditions such as arthritis, insomnia, dizziness, neck/shoulder pain, emotional and psychological disorders such as depression and anxiety, circulatory disorders, addiction to alcohol, nicotine, and drugs, respiratory disorders, and gastrointestinal conditions.

Bentosa

Today, Bentosa or cupping is gaining wide popularity among spa-goers. This ancient therapy is practiced in various countries, including Mexico, Morocco, the Balkans, much of Europe, Greece, Cyprus, Russia and Poland.

Bentosa involves the sucking of certain acupoints to negative pressure environment to dredge blockage, activate blood flow and dissipate cold spots in the body. It stimulates nerve systems and keeps the body balanced, it explains on its website.

The suction is created by air heated by fire in a glass cup placed against the skin, mostly at the back. As the air cools in the cup, a vacuum forms that pulls up on the skin, stimulating the acupressure effect.

There are two ways Bentosa or cupping techniques: stationary and moving.

Stationary cups are placed on the skin and left for a period of five to 15 minutes in one location, or four to six cups may be applied and removed cyclically in a technique called "flash cupping," it explains.

The moving technique or "massage cupping," on the other hand, involves gliding the cup over the affected surface. Before the treatment, oil is applied on skin to facilitate smooth movements. A cup may be "pushed" for a short time on stubborn knots or over inflamed joints or tissues.

More and more spa-goers have found the therapeutic effects of Bentosa to be effective and relaxing. It is fast becoming the preferred choice of those suffering from aches and sore pains. It helps improve blood flow to augment muscles and drains excess fluids and toxins.

With the ultra modern offerings of today's spas, going back in time still makes a big difference, especially when it comes to addressing one's need to relax and feeling abetter way wants to feel good.

E-mail the author at spa.babes_inq@yahoo.com

A fitness instructor and a nurse live the active lifestyle

Two women, one formula

A LIFE LIVED WITH PASSION IS A LIFE well-lived. It's an adage many women live by. Women like Joanne Ignacio and Nikki Sisi Bremner take charge, living each day with purpose, but never forgetting to take care of themselves.

Ignacio, 26, and single, is one of those multitalented women who has various interests and takes pleasure in experiencing a variety of tasks. She's a communications officer of the World Wide Fund for Nature-Philippines (WWF-Philippines), a nongovernment organization advocating environmental causes. She is also a TV and events host, and fitness instructor of yoga and boxing.

Bremner's life is just as exciting as Ignacio's. As a team paramedic of Lifeline ambulance Bicutan Inc., a dedicated emergency quick response (EQR) group, she gets to provide medical assistance to a variety of people. "This is my passion," says Bremner, a stewardess-turned-nurse in a 19-year-old. "I like to help people wherever I can ... From the Lifeline Rockwell Clinic, where I work, (I get to do) home visits as supposed by patients, monitoring their vital signs and answering questions about their health conditions."

These two women leading active lives are thankful they are able to enjoy what the world has to offer, with a healthy body and positive outlook.

To exercise leading active lives, Ignacio and Bremner make sure they get enough calcium to maintain strong bones.

What many Filipino women do not know is that two glasses of most milk products provide only 50 percent of their daily calcium needs. So regular milk drinkers and those who take tablet calcium supplements may not be getting the full benefits of this mineral.

Research shows that regular ready-to-drink milk, for instance, provides only 324 milligrams, or 40 percent, of the daily Recommended Energy and Nutrition Intake (Renis) for calcium. It is simply not enough to keep bones strong and body healthy.

Many bones calcium helps prevent osteoporosis. It helps build bone mass. Studies have proven that with vitamin D, it is a major factor in maintaining bone density and preventing problems like fractures.

Maintaining a daily habit of drinking high calcium milk is the only way to go. Switching from regular ready-to-drink milk to Anlene Gold5x-plus, which has four times more calcium, helps provide what the body needs.

Other ways of calcium rich benefits:

- Calcium keeps teeth strong.
- Maintaining optimum calcium intake provides calcified (the bacteria that is released during calcium shortages in the body) fortification in the muscle cells of arteries resulting in high blood pressure.
- It's a great weight loss aid, too. Researchers found that individuals deficient in calcium were more likely to have packed on the pounds.
- Calcium also helps the heart and blood vessels function more efficiently by enabling heart muscles to move smoothly.

Ignacio and Bremner recognize the importance of having a healthy body and strong bones to be able to do their jobs well. They both agree that exercise plays a big part as well.

"Yoga is not boring despite doing bones, and, yes, I can say that I have them," Ignacio declares. "(When I feel the time), I used to play soccer every single day of the week. I'm the adventurous sort so I like trying new things. I love a good adrenaline rush."

Bremner says, "I like to keep myself active so I work out at least five to three hours three times a week, depending on my days off. I do resistance training and strengthening exercises. Eventually I want to do a half-marathon sometime in the future which is one item in my to-do list," she adds with a smile.

"Shouldn't it be great," Ignacio reckons, "to do yoga, boxing, running, diving, mountaineering or surfing with your grandkids and their friends? You'd be the coolest grandma ever if you can be there for more than spoiling the kids behind their parents' backs!"

New Anlene Gold5x-plus is a 0% milk formula densely packed with four times more calcium than regular milk. It's available in vanilla and chocolate flavors.

Liniment ginger, chili-based treatment, castor oil help relieve back pain

HERE ARE QUESTIONS ON HEALTH and wellness from some of our readers:

Q. What does it mean to have chronic back pain?

Back aches are caused by several situations: injury or strain from over-exercising (or illness I'm guilty of this), bad posture, lifting (moving suddenly) or improperly, lack of back support, constipation, kidney problems, pregnancy and tension of stress.

Checklist

1. Study your posture. Do you need to slouch?
2. Your shoes could be ill-fitting and not giving you arch support.
3. Drink sufficient water—8 to 15 glasses daily. See a doctor to rule out kidney problems.
4. Are you taking enough calcium? Your body relies on this mineral.
5. Inspect your bed. Could the mattress be too hard/soft?
6. See a chiropractor.
7. Also, try an acupuncturist.
8. Using a computer for a long time without taking a break to stretch can also be the cause.
9. Psychotherapy indicates a persistent lower back problem is indicative of a person's feelings of insecurity due to lack of support or appreciation from others. Because it is in the area of the spine (mainly center) at the base of the spine according to an Indian belief) it may also indicate unmet sexual needs. Visit an analyst to resolve issues.

Quick remedies

1. Kidney cleanse—Chop a handful of fresh parsley and put in a quart of hot water for 20-45 minutes. Drink 4 cu daily.
2. Take essential water. 1 glass 24 daily or cranberry juice, 1 glass 24 daily.

INSIDE OUT

Cory Quirino

3. Natural balm—apply warm castor oil or olive oil on the affected area.
4. Juniper berries, chaparral and grass of the meadow are herbs which can be added to juice or drunk in tea.
5. Liniment ginger/chili-based treatments are also effective as back rub.

Q. Is it normal to suffer anxiety attacks?

Human beings are prone to fear and anxiety. In stressful circumstances or dangerous events, these emotions are normal. However, if they are frequent, something must be done immediately. Symptoms include dizziness or breath, tension, dizziness, chest pain, nervousness, perceiving sensations in the chest area, trembling spells, lack of concentration.

1. Seek professional help.
2. If you have an attack, sit quietly, control your breathing and repeat these words: "I am okay." Take slow deep breaths.

Q. Is drinking your blood good? A drop in your sugar level can cause anxiety.

Keep raisins or hard candy with you at all times. Take fruits or fruit juices. This should give you a quick energy/sugar boost.

Lifesaving tea... Chamomile or valerian tea!

Vitamin/mineral supplement—500 mg calcium 2x daily, magnesium 500 mg 2x daily.

Vitamin B-complex—50/100 mcg daily is enough to feed your nervous system.

Paper bag therapy—breathe slowly into a paper. This is an instant remedy.

Relaxing bath...Run a tub of warm water. Mix in your favorite bubble bath. Focus on the bubbles. As you watch them burst, tell yourself: "My fears will disappear in fact as these bubbles pop."

Q. Can you prescribe a regimen for allergies?

Your doctor is the best person who can help you. However, it is important to know that allergies are connected in an overactive immune system or at least one that needs balance. Top liver is prevalent. Allergens to avoid are peanuts, citrus fruits, wheat, seafood chicken, chocolates are solutions. Buy honey from florist if it is pure "yellow" (in Mold in humidities and air can move should be removed.

Body cleanse—Salt water nasal irrigation—Mix ½ tsp of sea salt to a cup of warm water. Use a syringe (minus the needle) and flush one nostril at a time. Allow it to flow through the other nostril.

Garlic oil capsules—Take two capsules daily after a meal. They smell so use in moderation.

Probiotics/kefir—Take two capsules of acidophilus or 3 tbsp of kefir daily on an empty stomach.

Call World of Wellness at 7210051, 5518864.

Onions—Breathe sealed with a bowl of chopped onions before Keep by your bedside at bedtime. This will open up your nasal passages.

Beauty regimen

Mix 1 avocado, add 2 tbsp milk, and 2 drops of lemon. Use as facial mask and body moisturizing rub.

Reference: B Heavenly of Natural Skin Aid Remedies from A-Z, James Kassik

Affirm today: "Life is or happy as it should be."

Love and light!

Newspaper columnist launches 'Purple Shades' book

AFTER OVER A DECADE OF GIVING joy and inspiration to so many readers, well-loved columnist Lolly Jacinto-Lopez has finally come up with a compilation of her favorite columnable articles in a book with the same title as her weekly lifestyle columns, "Purple Shades."

"Purple Shades" is a literary result of personal experiences, love for nature, and the author's various trips and assignments abroad. Filled with interesting categories such as Head and Soul with stories to motivate and stir the heart, My Blood Runs Cold with tales of faith and survival, Welcome is a long that shares stories which surround from her loved ones/relatives, stories of strength and inspiration in Family Ties; and female influences and motivation in Women Rule, the book contains stories and opinions considered by the author as her favorite pieces.

Asked why the color purple is very dear to her, Lolly shares, "It shows the need for every individual to be loved, in various degrees and shades."

Published by Purple Publishing House, "Purple Shades" also features chic and colorful chapter illustrations by artist Samantha D. Jacinto with cover design by acclaimed scrapbook enthusiast Joanne Figueroa-Yap. For more information on small and bulk orders, contact Lilibeth Villaseñor at 09209411018, 09267204540 or e-mail purpleshades@yahoo.com.

Lynda "Lyng" Jacinto-Lopez started writing for Philippine Star in 1994 after resigning as Manila Bulletin columnist-in-training.

Her topics range from travel spots to a host of stories gathered from personal experiences and observations, mostly in women and the working public.

She also contributed articles in various publications including Mega, Weekly Watch, Town & Country, Working Mom and People Asia.

Her favorites loved as "grateful by nature" after more than 10 years of working for various companies like the Manila Electric Retail Supermarket, Procter & Gamble (manufacturing), Meralco Hill (publishing), Meralco Hill (publishing-retail), Asian International (energy), World Health Organization (meetings/conferences), and the University of Melbourne (grants and foundations).

Having a son who resides in the Gold Coast of the Queensland state, daughter who lives in "Down Under" keeps her shuttling between apartments since 2002. She admits however, that her best journeys are done apart being a "Nanay" to her two precious nuggets: Dominion Gabriel and granddaughter Valentina.

Lynny is an alumnae of the University of Santo Tomas High School and the Assumption College.

Can science and mysticism be reconciled?

IF YOU ARE ANY WESTERN EDUCATED person what to him is real, he will most likely answer that something is real if it can be seen, heard, smelled, heard or touched by our senses. But if it is measurable in quantitative terms, and can be physically weighed and measured.

If it does not fall under one of the above physical categories, then that thing or whatever it is, does not exist in physical reality. It is regarded to be merely psychological or imaginary.

And he say event is to be considered valid or to have independent existence, it must obey the classical laws of Newtonian physics. For so long, modern man has avoided this scientific dogma as Gospel truth without question. As Bernhard Haywood said in his book "The Sixth Senses, An Inquiry into Extra-Sensory Perception," "We take it for granted that every event has a cause which precedes it, and that no event can have an effect before it has happened. Every effect must have a cause somewhere, there must be some transfer of energy between the two."

Further more, according to her, "Most of us also take it for granted that consciousness is no more than an aspect of physical process, that it is coextensive apart from a physical brain. ... We do not accept that the mind can be separated from body."

But what if these generally accepted scientific assumptions are not true? What if they are unable to explain or account for a wide range of factual and verifiable human experience? What then?

Take for example the following events which have been verified to have occurred.

1. Emanuel Swedenborg, 18th century Swedish philosopher, engineer, clairvoyant and mystic, while in a party "saw" and described a fire that had just broken near his home in Stockholm 300 miles away. He told his friends how the fire started and what time it was extinguished. He also knew the fire stopped just three houses away from his own. This incident was verified by German philosopher Immanuel Kant and personal by the Swiss psychologist, Carl Jung, in one of his works.

2. An American woman was cooking in the kitchen of her house in the USA, in early 1 p.m., she suddenly felt a piercing pain on her chest that she almost collapsed. At the exact time, thought she has had a heart attack, but the pain quickly disappeared. Next day, she received the sad news that her son, who was a soldier, had been shot in the chest in Vietnam at exactly the time she felt the pain in the US.

3. A Filipino corporate executive suddenly cancelled a committee meeting he had scheduled with his managers for no reason at all. He just felt he had to go home. Before leaving the company he passed by the medical division's office and insisted him to have check with him at home. When they reached the executive's house, he found his wife alone unconscious near the kitchen in a pool of blood. She has had a miscarriage and bled profusely. After the doctor, whom he happened to bring along, applied first aid, he told the executive, "If we had been late for only a minute, your wife would have been dead for loss of blood."

Exceptions to the rule

There are numerous examples of such events or incidents which cannot be explained by the commonly accepted laws of the physical universe, neither can they be explained by metaphysic.

Most scientists will dismiss such stories as mere coincidences and will look no further, nor offer any explanation. They are regarded as mere "anomalies" of nature, or exceptions to the rule. They are not considered to be violations of accepted scientific laws.

I believe the problem with commonly accepted laws of science is not that they are wrong. They are still applicable in the real world of the senses. But they are utterly inadequate in explaining a lot of phenomena that happen in seeming defiance of such laws, as for example, telepathy, precognition, telekinesis (telekinesis, psychic energy) and reincarnation. Does the all terrible. These things are not supposed to happen but they obviously do, in the cities of our universe of orthodox scientists.

Fortunately, an emerging branch of science that has attempted to reconcile science and mysticism is quantum physics or particle physics.

In the quantum level, the accepted laws of the Newtonian physics no longer apply. The cause can occur at the same time as its effect, not necessarily before. The chasm distance between two points is not a straight line but a curve. There is no such thing as a purely objective reality. The object changes depending on who is observing it. What governs the quantum universe is not Newton's laws but consciousness. And consciousness can exist without the body thinking can occur without the mind.

This world, as the Buddhists say, is but our mental creation. As the great physicist, Sir Arthur Stanley Eddington, said, "The stuff of the universe is mind-stuff."

Note: The next Inner Mind Development seminar will be held April 17 and 18, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., and Soulmates, Karma & Reincarnation, April 24, 1-7 p.m. at Rm. 306 Prince Plaza 1 Condo, Legaspi St., Greenhills, Makati. Call 8107241; telefax 8115999; e-mail jaimel@cnsolve.com.

INNER AWARENESS

Jaime T. Licanco

International golf show set in September

GOLF EXPERTS SAY, IT GOES for one's physical and mental health. It is a dynamic weight loss program, which complements weight training and cardiovascular exercise. cardiovascular workout. If there do not encourage you yet to take a swing, consider these. Playing golf burns about 300 calories in a 150-lb individual. The striking range burns about 200 calories per hour. Bearing weight also strengthens muscles and bones. It also helps a player gain more lengths in his drive. Experts in the sun gives a golfer plenty of Vitamin D. It also helps one sleep better. Being a social game, a golfer also finds new friends and get more opportunities in seeking new partnerships and business deals. Golf in the Philippines has become a thriving industry, with its main stakeholders forming the the Golf Distributors Association of the Philippines (GDAP) to ensure the quality of products and services its members render to its clients. Recently, the group held the third GDAP Summer Golf Show 2010 at The MBC Tent. More than 15,000 is represented nearly 40 companies on gigantic golf club designs, shoes, apparel and accessories, golf carts, fitness and wellness products, and real estate developments.

The GDAP has also lined up the 58th Philippine International Golf Show on Sept. 24-26 at Hall 1 of the SMX Convention Center at the Mall of Asia in Pasay City.

Sun promo

Have unlimited cycling and kiteboarding with no number paths required for cycling, no minimum kiteboarder required and no time limitation anywhere in the Philippines. 50-lot these are accessible with Sun+925 Call & Text Unlimited (CT) (SL). Users prepaid service and one of the most affordable 1-day unlimited offer in the country. For only P25, one is treated to endless calls and texts all day, all night, no holds barred. Sun Cellular prepaid subscribers automatically get Sun+ unlimited until April 30. Sun Call & Text unlimited P25 is available in all Sun Xpressload retailer locations nationwide. Convert regular load by texting CTU25 TO 247. For more information, visit any of The Sun Shop locations nationwide. Call the customer service hotline 200 for free using Sun mobile phone or 5068000 from any landline. Visit www.suncellular.com.ph.

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www.stationeryandsupplies.com

Getting creative with SM stationery

Summertime isn't only about discovering new places, but also exploring one's creative side with SM Stationery's arts and crafts materials.

There are materials and supplies for coloring fun, as well as watercolors and paint sets for little artists. For kids who want to get crafty, one can find a wide variety of projects and tools for creative projects. There are also activity books that will stimulate little minds during the long summer break. Some watercolors can be conserved carry cases to make it easy to bring along during out of town trips.

These colorful, creative, and crafty sets are available at the Stationery Section of all SM Department Stores. Also visit our website at www.stationeryandsupplies.com.

Set # 0867181-021: 36-pieces of color-by-numbers kits in a fun, box-shaped box

Decorate and create your own boardgame! Play with it afterwards for tons of summer fun

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ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Bronnie O. Velarde

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Wally at My Bro's Mustache

WALLY GONZALEZ AND FRIENDS perform on April 17 at My Brother's Mustache, corner Scout Tuazon and Scout Madrinan Streets, Quezon City. Gonzalez is known as the guitarist of Pinoy rock pioneers Juan de la Cruz Band, which has staged a number of reunion gigs recently.

Is the Krista-Jinkee match far from over?

COULD IT BE TRUE that Krista Ranillo allegedly told a friend in the United States: "Ubos na naman para ni Manny pagyaon niya Ang Jinkee kasi nag-shopping lamot sa Hermes at Singpan niya ako ng boutique dito."

A distant relative of Krista tipped me off about it. Krista and Manny will surely delay this.

Previous boxing matches only have 12 rounds. But it seems inaccelerated from Jinkee will sing it out all evening if ever Krista gets touched up, will that knock out Jinkee?

Tomorrow pity is Ronald Singson's. Allan brags that he is having a hard time keeping up with Lani Pen's happy-go-lucky ways. "Nag-tsaatsa na si Ronald para a Lemonsilip yo'n ga-rainsh, kasi nga bata pa siya."

Hide the way Ronald pampers Lani like a queen, she caught in compromising scene swingers and intimate all. It's either he converts her or she converts him. But for any relationship to work, it's best to diverge together.

Guess list

■ A young actress/host is banned for life from setting foot on a southern province. "Hihiwi nya kasi mga lago doon," says any source. "Dagsurne pa during the event. Hinamuyan siya ng mga tao doon. They will boycott her movies and shows." No Health for her anymore.

■ A TV host was shocked with the way the execs of his network friend treats her when she brought her lover/ex/ plane. She eagerly said her mom that she does two commercials that day instead of being happy for her, the execs snapped back, "Hindi nyo ba kasi pwedeng sa other commercials?" and stormed out of the exit. Mean ba ng ibig sabihin?

■ An actress is being haunted by her conscience for having her baby (with an old ex politico) aborted some years ago. No wonder she has turned spiritual. Whatever! Baby boomerang!

***

If any news were still alive, I'm sure she will volunteer to join in Jinggoy Estrada's sorties. Jinggoy is like family to us. He's now there for us during our darkest hours.

One funny sosodoon was when my source asked ng Jinggoy, sabing him if he knew anyone who could fill up our swimming pool because we were having a party that night. We were so surprised when he sent a fire truck.

That's the kind of guy he is. Jinggoy is one friend ever and beyond the call of duty.

***

The sentimental fool in me enjoys listening to Jinggoy Ejercito's second album as follow up to his summer hit, "Pasko Ka Kaya" from his first album. Produced by Sihasin Initiatives, it is jampacked with OPM love songs that will surely bring back good old memories.

Tracks include "Tatanaw Ko Mula Sa Aking," "Hindi Nanging Kaya" "Hihintayin Ka Hindi" (zombie single) and a bonus track "Paano Na Kaya."

With his newfound success, the Pinoy Dream Academy 2nd placer is now living his dreams.

E-mail scouting *bulalungrhet@yahoo.com*

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Anne Carvajal

RONALD Singson and Lani Pen

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Cinema 1: DATE NIGHT | Cinema 2: CLASH OF THE TITANS

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SM CITY TAYTAY | SM CITY ROSARIO | SM CITY BICUTAN | SM CITY MARIKINA

SM LIPA | SM CITY BACOLOD | SM CITY CEBU | SM CITY DAVAO

SM CITY ILOILO | SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO | SM CITY GENERAL SANTOS

metro manila

SM NORTH EDSA — CLASH OF THE TITANS; DATE NIGHT; HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON; THE BOOK OF ELI; DATE NIGHT; BABE; I LOVE YOU; DIARY OF WIMPY KID

SM MALL OF ASIA — CLASH OF THE TITANS; HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON; DATE NIGHT; DIARY OF WIMPY KID; CLASH OF THE TITANS; CLASH OF THE TITANS

SM MEGAMALL — CLASH OF THE TITANS; DATE NIGHT; HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON; DIARY OF WIMPY KID; CLASH OF THE TITANS; BABE; I LOVE YOU

SM CITY MANILA — CLASH OF THE TITANS; DATE NIGHT; HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON; DIARY OF WIMPY KID; CLASH OF THE TITANS; BABE; I LOVE YOU; DIARY OF WIMPY KID

SM FAIRVIEW — DIARY OF WIMPY KID; CLASH OF THE TITANS; HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON; DATE NIGHT; CLASH OF THE TITANS; BABE; I LOVE YOU; HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON

SM CITY SAN LAZARO — CLASH OF THE TITANS; DATE NIGHT; CLASH OF THE TITANS; BABE; I LOVE YOU; HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON

SM CITY NORTH EDSA — DATE NIGHT; CLASH OF THE TITANS; HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON; BABE; I LOVE YOU; DIARY OF WIMPY KID; CLASH OF THE TITANS

SM CITY MARIKINA — CLASH OF THE TITANS; DATE NIGHT; HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON; BABE; I LOVE YOU; CLASH OF THE TITANS

SM CITY BICUTAN — CLASH OF THE TITANS; DATE NIGHT; HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON; BABE; I LOVE YOU; CLASH OF THE TITANS

SM CITY TAYTAY — CLASH OF THE TITANS; DATE NIGHT; BABE; I LOVE YOU; CLASH OF THE TITANS; DATE NIGHT

SM CITY ROSARIO — DATE NIGHT; CLASH OF THE TITANS; BABE; I LOVE YOU; CLASH OF THE TITANS; DATE NIGHT

SM CITY BACOOR — CLASH OF THE TITANS; DATE NIGHT; BABE; I LOVE YOU; CLASH OF THE TITANS; DATE NIGHT

SM LIPA — CLASH OF THE TITANS; DATE NIGHT; BABE; I LOVE YOU; CLASH OF THE TITANS; DATE NIGHT

SM CITY BACOLOD — CLASH OF THE TITANS; DATE NIGHT; BABE; I LOVE YOU; CLASH OF THE TITANS; DATE NIGHT

SM CITY CEBU — CLASH OF THE TITANS; DATE NIGHT; BABE; I LOVE YOU; CLASH OF THE TITANS; DATE NIGHT

SM CITY DAVAO — CLASH OF THE TITANS; DATE NIGHT; BABE; I LOVE YOU; CLASH OF THE TITANS; DATE NIGHT

SM CITY ILOILO — CLASH OF THE TITANS; DATE NIGHT; BABE; I LOVE YOU; CLASH OF THE TITANS; DATE NIGHT

SM CITY GENERAL SANTOS — CLASH OF THE TITANS; DATE NIGHT; BABE; I LOVE YOU; CLASH OF THE TITANS; DATE NIGHT

luzon

SM CITY TUGUEGARAO — CLASH OF THE TITANS; DATE NIGHT; HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON; BABE; I LOVE YOU; CLASH OF THE TITANS; DATE NIGHT

SM CITY CLARK — CLASH OF THE TITANS; DATE NIGHT; HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON; BABE; I LOVE YOU; CLASH OF THE TITANS; DATE NIGHT

SM CITY BAGUIO — CLASH OF THE TITANS; DATE NIGHT; HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON; BABE; I LOVE YOU; CLASH OF THE TITANS; DATE NIGHT

SM CITY BALIWAG — CLASH OF THE TITANS; DATE NIGHT; HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON; BABE; I LOVE YOU; CLASH OF THE TITANS; DATE NIGHT

SM CITY CABANATUAN — CLASH OF THE TITANS; DATE NIGHT; BABE; I LOVE YOU; CLASH OF THE TITANS; DATE NIGHT

SM CITY SAN JOSE — CLASH OF THE TITANS; DATE NIGHT; BABE; I LOVE YOU; CLASH OF THE TITANS; DATE NIGHT

SM CITY NAGA — CLASH OF THE TITANS; DATE NIGHT; BABE; I LOVE YOU; CLASH OF THE TITANS; DATE NIGHT

SM CITY LUCENA — CLASH OF THE TITANS; DATE NIGHT; BABE; I LOVE YOU; CLASH OF THE TITANS; DATE NIGHT

visayas • mindanao

SM CITY BANAS — CLASH OF THE TITANS; DATE NIGHT; THE BOOK OF ELI; DATE NIGHT; HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON; BABE; I LOVE YOU; DIARY OF WIMPY KID; CLASH OF THE TITANS; DATE NIGHT

SM CITY CEBU — CLASH OF THE TITANS; DATE NIGHT; HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON; BABE; I LOVE YOU; DIARY OF WIMPY KID; CLASH OF THE TITANS; DATE NIGHT

SM CITY ILOILO — CLASH OF THE TITANS; DATE NIGHT; HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON; BABE; I LOVE YOU; CLASH OF THE TITANS; DATE NIGHT

SM CITY BACOLOD — CLASH OF THE TITANS; DATE NIGHT; HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON; BABE; I LOVE YOU; CLASH OF THE TITANS; DATE NIGHT

SM CITY DAVAO — CLASH OF THE TITANS; DATE NIGHT; HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON; BABE; I LOVE YOU; CLASH OF THE TITANS; DATE NIGHT

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO — CLASH OF THE TITANS; DATE NIGHT; THE BOOK OF ELI; DATE NIGHT; BABE; I LOVE YOU; DIARY OF WIMPY KID; CLASH OF THE TITANS; DATE NIGHT

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1 CLASH OF THE TITANS
2 BABE, I LOVE YOU
3 CLASH OF THE TITANS
4 DIARY OF A WIMPY KID
5 POSSESSION
6 CLASH OF THE TITANS (Digital 3D)
7 HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON
8 BOOK OF ELI
9 ALICE IN WONDERLAND
10 DATE NIGHT

MANILA

1 DATE NIGHT
2 DIARY OF A WIMPY KID
3 CLASH OF THE TITANS (Digital 3D)
4 BABE I LOVE YOU
5 CLASH OF THE TITANS
6 BOOK OF ELI
7 HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON

METRO EAST

1 CLASH OF THE TITANS
2 ALICE IN WONDERLAND
3 DATE NIGHT
4 CLASH OF THE TITANS
5 POSSESSION
6 BABE, I LOVE YOU
7 DIARY OF A WIMPY KID
8 HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON

NOMALICHES

1 POSSESSION
2 DATE NIGHT
3 BABE, I LOVE YOU
4 CLASH OF THE TITANS

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1 CLASH OF THE TITANS
2 BABE, I LOVE YOU
3 DATE NIGHT

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1 CLASH OF THE TITANS
2 CLASH OF THE TITANS
3 DATE NIGHT
4 BABE, I LOVE YOU

LIPA

1 CLASH OF THE TITANS
2 BABE, I LOVE YOU
3 HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON
4 WHEN IN ROME

DASMARIÑAS

1 CLASH OF THE TITANS
2 DATE NIGHT
3 BABE, I LOVE YOU
4 DIARY OF A WIMPY KID

STARMILLS

1 DATE NIGHT
2 THE FOUR(TH) KIND
3 BABE I LOVE YOU
4 BOOK OF BLOOD
5 CLASH OF THE TITANS
6 CLASH OF THE TITANS (3-D)

IMUS

1 BABE, I LOVE YOU
2 POSSESSION
3 CLASH OF THE TITANS
4 DATE NIGHT
5 DIARY OF A WIMPY KID

ANGELES

1 DATE NIGHT
2 BABE, I LOVE YOU
3 GREENZONE
4 CLASH OF THE TITANS

TACLOBAN

1 HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON
2 CLASH OF THE TITANS
3 BABE I LOVE YOU

SUMAGUETE

1 HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON
2 CLASH OF THE TITANS
3 BABE I LOVE YOU

BACOLOD

1 HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON
2 CLASH OF THE TITANS
3 BABE I LOVE YOU
4 UP IN THE AIR
5 DATE NIGHT

ILOILO

1 CLASH OF THE TITANS
2 BABE, I LOVE YOU
3 DATE NIGHT
4 CLASH OF THE TITANS
5 BOOK OF ELI
6 HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON

GENSAN

1 CLASH OF THE TITANS
2 BABE, I LOVE YOU
3 UP IN THE AIR
4 HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON

ILOCOS NORTE

1 CLASH OF THE TITANS
2 HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON
3 BABE, I LOVE YOU

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THEATRE MAP

MMTA MOVIE GUIDE

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Noel Cabangon climbs to No. 2 in OPM chart

THE TOP-SELLING ALBUMS IN THE PHILIPPINES for the week March 29-April 4, based on Odyssey Music & Video store chain's nationwide sales reports:

OPM

1) "Row Na Nga," Willie Revillame, Star Records; 2) "Byahe," Noel Cabangon, Universal Records; 3) "I Stat 15: Best Of IV & Mark Themes Various Artists," Star Records; 4) "Bagay Debut 2nd Album," Bagay Debut, Star Records; 5) "Romance Revisited: The Love Songs of Jose Mari Chan," Christian Bautista, Universal Records; 6) "Addicted To Acoustic 2," Princess, Viva Music; 7) "Stats," Juris, Star Records; 8) "Sweetheart of the Rodeo," Moira Watson Music; 9) "B.U." 8C Cosmopolitan, Sony Music; 10) "Frances," Frances, MCA Universal

Overall

1) "My World 2.0," Justin Bieber, MCA Music; 2) "Row Na Nga," Willie Revillame, Star Records; 3) "Byahe," Noel Cabangon, Universal Records; 4) "I Stat 15: Best Of IV & Mark Themes," Various Artists, Star Records; 5) "The Game Monsters," Lady Gaga, MCA Music; 6) "Selena: (Previously Unreleased)," Selena Gomez, MCA Music; 7) "Happy Birthday 2nd Album," Bagay Debut, Star Records; 8) "Romance Revisited: The Love Songs of Jose Mari Chan," Christian Bautista, Universal Records; 9) "Addicted To Acoustic 2," Princess, Viva Music; 10) "Revolution," Journey, MCA Music

US Top 10 albums

1) "My World 2.0," Justin Bieber, School Boy/Universal Motown/Island/IDJMG; 2) "All Summer Long," Kid Rock, TOP DOG/Atlantic; 3) "SOUL," Various Artists, Universal/EMI/Sony Music/Capitol; 4) "Need You Now," Lady Antebellum, Capitol Nashville; 5) "My World (EP)," Justin Bieber, School Boy/Universal Motown/Island/IDJMG; 6) "Selena: Fan," Sin & Ellen, Hedge; 7) "Battle of the Sexes," Goldrush, DTS/Def Jam/EDMG; 8) "The Game," Lady Gaga, Streamline/KonLive/Cherrytree/Interscope; 9) "Sweetheart of the Rodeo," Various Artists, 10) "Show Us Her," Marvin Sapp, Verity/RAL

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Usher's new CD a bit like deja vu

USHER'S "RAYmond v. Raymond" album has all the elements of his earlier albums. There's the less-than-subtle sum-

REVIEW

biographical relationship trick—in this case, a song about Usher's ("Papers"), said in the voice of 2004's "Confessions," a remorsefully apologetic Usher spills the beans about cheating on "Raydio Amoura."

It seems the singer has linked himself romantically as well.

"There Goes My Baby" is instantly appealing, but upbeat club tracks including "Lil Freak" and "She Don't Know" are catchy but disappointingly safe-disco-ic.

USHER